

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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THE WAR SITUATION.

Every American citizen who loves his country and her institutions feels greatly elated at the progress of the allied troops over in France and Belgium. They feel that the beginning of the end of the great war has been reached and that when the final battle has been fought a peace will be made which will protect the democracies of the world and to insure the right of humanity in general a place in the world where the home and personal rights of the people will not be molested.

The success which is now being reaped by the allied troops is due to two causes—the entrance of America in the war and the selection of a generalissimo to command all of the armies.

It is now an admitted conclusion by the allied nations that without America's help in food, munitions and man power the war would have been lost to Prussia. There is no doubt but what the tremendous energy now being manifested by the American people has instilled hope and courage in the hearts of the English, French and Italians. And as these nations have become encouraged with America in the war, Germany and Austria have become discouraged and have lost hope of winning.

But even with America in the war, there could not be the necessary team work on the part of the various armies without one central head or commander. By common consent General Foch of the French army, was selected. The present success of the allied armies in driving the Huns back towards the Rhine shows that the selection was not a mistake. But let us not assume that the war is over because of the uniform and splendid success of the allied arms.

There are a great many battles to be fought in which the lives to be sacrificed fills one with horror. Yet the price must be paid whatever the cost may be. There is but one conclusion thinkable—democracy and civilization must win.

When American troops first landed on French soil it was advised that the regiments be brigaded with French and English seasoned troops. They, the French and English generals, were afraid to trust the Americans as a unit on the fighting line. General Pershing submitted to this lack of confidence. He was not afraid to submit the American boys to any required test. What is the result? To the Rainbow division belongs the glory of wresting the initiative from the Huns. This army of untrained Americans hurled back the crack German veterans on the Marne and initiated the offensive for the allied armies which has been and is being vigorously and success-

fully prosecuted at the present time.

But there is more glory ahead for our doughboys. The American regiments which have won their spurs when associated with English and French troops are being returned to the immediate command of General Pershing. Their English and French comrades have no doubts about the Yankees making good. They have had the baptism of fire; they have made good. Troops now in training and yet to be trained will be sent to France as rapidly as ships can carry them and in a few months General Pershing will command a larger army than any other American general of history.

General Pershing commands the southernmost sector of the western battle line. It is also the sector closest to Berlin. When the final drive to Berlin is on why may not our American boys lead the march? They have proven their valor on every field, and what has proven true of those who have been in the fighting will prove true of the balance. Therefore why should not the troops of the leading democracy of the world be given the post of honor in fighting for the perpetuity of democracy? We Americans are not afraid to trust them to carry Old Glory to the castle of the Hohenzollerns. We know they will bring the flag back unsullied.

It is generally believed that Germany will be on her knees begging for peace within the next few months. We hope this expectation does not miscarry. General Foch is pursuing the same plan adopted by General Grant in the winter and spring of 1865. That is to say to give the enemy no rest nor time to recuperate, but to keep everlastingly pounding him until he is finally worn out. Long before Berlin is reached the Hun army as a fighting unit will have been destroyed and that destruction seems now to have begun.

When the war is over and our Yankee boys come back victors there should be another grand march of victory as in 1865, down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington city. It would be the grandest march of all time in which English, French, Italian and Belgian regiments should participate. It would be a fete worthy of one crossing the ocean or continent to see democracy wearing the crown of victory.

NEW NORMAL SCHOOLS

One of the measures submitted by our last legislature in a house joint resolution to the people was the authorization to build two normal schools, one in Southern Oregon and one in Eastern Oregon, each to cost not more than \$125,000.

Several years ago Oregon was cursed with four normal schools. They had been slipped in on the state with the understanding that but a trifling sum of money would be required from the state for their support and that the several localities whereat the schools were located would care for the support. After the schools had been foisted onto the state the local support for some reason failed to materialize and the state soon found that with the four normals, the university and the agricultural college, it had overloaded itself with colleges.

The final result was that the legislature refused to appropriate money for the support of the normals and as a consequence they literally starved to death.

The building of normal schools at Ashland and at an Eastern Oregon point, probably Pendleton. The Tribune thinks is unwise and unfair to the taxpayers of the state. We are now paying out a very large sum of money annually to support our state colleges—so large a sum that it has become a grievous burden to the

taxpayer—just to give special and technical education to a very small percentage of our boys and girls. Anyway the present normal college at Monmouth is not overloaded with students. If this college is not enough to educate teachers for our public schools, normal departments could be established at both Corvallis and Eugene colleges at comparative small cost which would supply all teachers required. There is no reason why technical knowledge of teaching cannot be embraced in the curriculum of our two big colleges as well as that of civil engineering, dentistry, pharmacy, etc.

Anyway the state public schools do not get the benefit of the normal trained teacher which she ought. A very large percentage of the young men and ladies which the state educates for teachers never enter a school room in the capacity of teacher. Also many of those who take up teaching as a life work go to other states for work. This is hardly fair to the taxpayers who support the normal college and who depend upon the public schools in which to educate their children. The young man or woman who enjoys the state's bounty at the normal school should be required to teach in the schools of Oregon for a stated number of years.

However the normal graduate is not always a successful teacher, and transversely men and women who have never seen the inside of a normal college are splendidly successful. In fact the successful teacher is born, not made. While an understanding of normal methods are of great value to the born teacher in his work they are of small value to he or she who has no natural fitness for teaching.

Most taxpayers have their minds fixed as to how they will vote on the normal school measure. They know and feel that the state college has become a serious burden—heavier than should be imposed upon the taxpayer and his or her vote will be "No." Only the people of Ashland and of Eastern Oregon who hope to secure the location of the school within their midst will vote "Yes." They want a high school built and supported by the state. This is the real meat of the coconut.

The fourth liberty loan and the registration of men 18 to 45 inclusive is apt to so absorb the public mind that little interest will be manifested in state and county politics. Yet it is vitally important that we go on with our public housekeeping and be unusually careful in the housekeepers we select. We want to keep the home fires burning, both public and private. We want to show our victorious boys when they return from over there that we have not been slackers in running the home machine pending their absence. So while we must buy bonds and must register if within the prescribed year numbers, let us not overlook the importance of selecting the very best officials from the candidacies offered. We need the best of officials now as never before and electors should use their best judgments at the November election regardless of party fealty. We want men and women for officials who are efficient and whose patriotism is without question.

Chautauquas are all right. They are educative and replete with artistic pleasure and in normal times are worthy of a liberal patronage. But in war times when the people are called upon by the government and war accessories, they are ill-timed. The gentlemen and ladies who furnish entertainment should either go to war or engage in occupations necessary to win the war. Scio will adjourn the chautauqua business until the Hun is driven to his lair or destroyed and the war is won for democracy.

When Oregon abolished capital punishment a serious mistake was made especially in such cases as desperado Bennett Thompson who is expected to desperately resist capture. Had he been hanged, which he richly deserved, the life or lives of good men might be saved. When a man forfeits his life because of wilful murder there is small show of reforming him into a law abiding citizen and the safest protection which can be given society is the rope. The sickly sentimentality which caused the banishment of the death penalty is akin to the pacifist spirit which would submit to national insult and injury rather than go to war. As long as the world must be ruled by force desperado nations as well as individuals must be punished until it hurts, and when it is demonstrated that a nation or individual is a menace to other nations or society the Mosaic law of an eye for an eye seems the only remedy. Oregon will yet be compelled to restore the death penalty.

It ought to be overwhelmingly evident to old Kaiser Bill that the war is lost to Germany and that to continue the same until the last ditch is conquered is simply to sacrifice his subjects. He certainly now knows that the only way in which to stop the war is unconditional surrender of the German armies. He could probably get better terms now than later on.

If print paper, inks, etc., soar much higher country newspapers will be forced to suspend or else to double up rates. Newspapers have been much slower to increase prices than merchants and labor. But they will have to join the procession else quit business.

Oregon is rapidly becoming the leading wood ship building state of the Union. Her ships will soon be at every port in the world.

The Stayton Mail has changed hands, Alexander and Daugherty retiring and Charles S. Clark as the new proprietor.

The Lot of the Slacker.

The slacker who has any remaining doubts as to the universal contempt in which he is held will doubt no longer if he will read the letter of the provost marshal-general of the United States. Nor is this all. The machinery of the war department for the detection of those who shirk their duty is being perfected to a degree that bodes ill even for those who have thus far escaped the dragnet.

Remaining at home, the slacker is sure to be caught; fleeing, he faces the taunts and jeers of a contemptuous populace wherever he may be. It is not likely that he will be able to get a passport for a voyage across the Atlantic; over the border on the north and south there is no asylum for him. Canada will invite him to submit to its draft law or go away from there. Mexico, none too friendly to the United States, has even less use for him. Even the wealthy ones who have established a kind of slacker colony in Mexico City are completely isolated. Aristocrat and peon alike regard him as less than the dust beneath their feet.

A few thousand men without a country who are being smoked out by the present crisis have the prospect of a whole lifetime of misery before them. They will never be able to rehabilitate themselves in the favor of their neighbors and former friends. The day will come when they would gladly give their lives to remove the stigma, but it will come too late. Their declining years will be one long tragedy of vain regrets. —Oregonian.

D. P. Mason Accepts.

David P. Mason of Albany, decided to accept the Democratic nomination for state treasurer. Though not a candidate his name was written in at the primaries in May. He is a pioneer Albany druggist and is the oldest living past grand master in point of service of the Masonic grand lodge of Oregon.

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