

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and
the Republic for which it stands, one
Nation, indivisible, with liberty and
justice for all.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919
THE SAVIOR OF MANKIND?

President Wilson wields more power today than any man has been able to command during the entire history of the world. Rulers have been absolute monarchs over their own nations and over other adjoining nations, in a measure, but such power has always been supported by physical power. Fear has been the basis. People have submitted to power simply because they were helpless to do otherwise, as has been the case with small and weak nations in submitting to the dictum of their more powerful neighbors.

But here we have one man, the president of a great people to be sure, who is saying practically to these European nations: "Your rule of physical force is a failure, you are simply destroying yourselves by your method; there is a better method, and this method is to agree to live in harmony with each other, to recognize and respect the rights of each and to accomplish by moral power what cannot be done with physical force."

President Wilson will accomplish with his great moral power and convincing arguments what has heretofore been impossible. He knows that right now is the one propitious time in the world's history to accomplish this purpose. He has pointed the way and these nations which have worn themselves to exhaustion seem willing to listen, to be led. Four years ago these war-weary peoples would not have listened; they were not then convinced as they are now that physical force is a failure. They are now in the proper frame of mind to try the new and better plan.

President Wilson could not possibly have placed himself in the exalted position of moral power he occupies had he not prepared the way. He at the beginning of the great struggle tried with moral suasion to get these warring nations to settle their troubles by peaceable means. He asked each nation to define in plain terms what its reasons for war were—to tell just what it was fighting for.

When for well known reasons the United States participated in the war the president assembled such a great army to Europe that the great war was brought to a close within a few months.

When entering the war President Wilson said we want neither indemnity nor territory; or in effect saying we are here to bring this great

holocaust of blood to a close as soon as possible and we want to see such a settlement that, if possible, there will be no more wars.

President Wilson with his altruistic views is the only man in the world to whom these people will listen. They believe that in proposing the league of nations plan he is absolutely honest and that he is not inspired from selfish motives. They believe that he is not asking other nations to do what the United States is not willing to do.

And President Wilson can point to the past history of the United States as an evidence that we are absolutely honest in our present purpose to make the world a better place in which for men to live. He can point to the fact that we have always paid for any territory we have acquired from other nations; that our frontier on the north is maintained inviolate without armed power of any kind along the border; that we entered a war with Spain to free oppressed Cuba, and after establishing a stable government on that island withdrew therefrom. He can point to the tremendous strides our government has made in the progress of civilization and the accumulation of wealth under a rule of moral, not physical power.

Therefore, being spokesman for the leading and most progressive nation of the world, he is in a position to point and direct a plan by which the nations of the world can live in peace and harmony by simply recognizing the fact that the weak have the same right to live in the world that the strong have.

If President Wilson can accomplish this grand purpose, and he will, may we not truthfully say he is the savior of mankind?

Strange to say we have men, senators and representatives, who would defeat the formation of a league of nations just because they do not like the exact wording of the proposed constitution. They infer that the U. S. will have to become a sort of arbiter and be ever ready to send an army to Europe to settle any quarrel which may and probably will occur between nations. This is not true. President Wilson is first an American citizen and then a citizen of the world. He will not concede a single right which America deems as hers, even that of going to war if necessary. But he and his associate delegates will agree to settle any international dispute we may have by peaceable means if possible. All other signatory nations will make the same agreement.

Senators Lodge, Borah and others are actuated by political or partisan motives. If so they are making a serious blunder, both for themselves and their party. If they want to make Woodrow Wilson president for the third time they have but to continue their present tactics and defeat the ratification by the senate of the treaty of peace.

A very large majority of the people want the league of nations to win out. They want no more wars if they can be avoided and they think the proposed league furnishes a method which will mark the end of war. The Tribune believes that should either the democratic or the republican party become the cause of the defeat of the league that party will be annihilated and the men, senators or representatives, who engineer the defeat will sink into political oblivion. Let the league become an established fact and President Wilson will retire to private life feeling that he has accomplished more for the peace and happiness of the world than has ever fallen to the lot of one man to accomplish.

So far as our "Monroe doctrine" being interfered with the league will practically create a Monroe doctrine for every nation in Europe.

The league constitution may not be perfect. It may not suit the particular ideas of any nation. But it is a starter and can be amended as future experience develops the need.

MODERN CONVENIENCES

The many conveniences of today which everyone may enjoy have come so gradually that we do not realize how necessary they are to our enjoyment of everyday life.

A few days ago our electric light plant was out of commission for two days and we had to go back to the kerosene lamp. Then we saw what a great convenience the turning of a button, which caused our homes to become flooded with light, had become. If it was necessary for one to go on the streets for any purpose the old lantern had to be requisitioned.

If it now becomes necessary to call a doctor at night or during the day we simply go to the telephone on the wall and the trick is done. The doctor, instead of harnessing his team, bundles himself and pill bag into an auto and is at the bedside of his patient hours sooner than he could possibly have been in the old days and, mayhap, the life of the patient saved or the pain relieved.

But we get the full fruitage of these conveniences only when we add one other, that of good roads.

It is estimated that \$1,000,000 will pave and macadamize our principal roads so that all neighborhoods will be connected with the market towns. This is a large sum of money for Linn county to raise in addition to our other taxes. But it can be done without hardship.

There are probably 5000 farm owners and business men in Linn county. Now every one of these could well afford to donate \$200 each to develop a system of good highways all over the county. But they need not be asked to make the donation, but to simply loan the county that sum each and at five per cent interest as well. Now there is not a farm owner in Linn county who would not make the loan if he knew his farm would be connected with his market town by a first-class road.

So let's add this greatest convenience of them all to those we now enjoy. Nobody will build roads for us; we must do it ourselves with our own money.

SPRING IS HERE.

There is no doubt about it. The hens are cackling, roosters crowing, girls are parading the streets wearing low-neck dresses with diminutive skirts; farmers are plowing, young lambs and goat kids are plentiful, and John Kelly keeps the door of his store wide open.

Yes, spring is here, full of promise of a bountiful crop for our farmers. If the aphids will be good and the season propitious, Oregon farmers will harvest abundant crops. As good prices are assured our farmers will be on easy street next fall. And the aforesaid farmer is making full use of the good weather; early and late he is on the job. He is not an 8-hour man; on the other hand about 16 hours daily are necessary for him to get away with the crowding work. A little later, however, he will have leisure to talk politics or any other old thing which seems beneficial to public interests.

Yes, spring is here; the young lady arrived all in a bunch Friday of last week, coincident with the arrival of the Albany automobile show. In fact it looks as though the Albany people had subsidized the aforesaid Miss Spring to date her arrival with good weather and not too soon, for the farmer would then

be busy in his fields and would refuse to quit the plow to look at new autos.

Governor Olcott now has practically absolute control of the state of Oregon by having two votes on the state board of control. If he succeeds in legally appointing a secretary of state to succeed himself and appoints a man who will be secretary, he will have done something few men would do; he will surrender power when he has full warrant of law to hold it. The present dilemma the state is in will probably cause the people to vote to establish the office of lieutenant governor. As a matter of fact the state should establish that office. We should not remain in a position where a man, greedy for power, could control the state. We may never have another Ben Olcott who is willing to surrender power when he has it, legally.

The Race Across the Atlantic

If not this month, then soon at any rate, some aviator is going to cross the Atlantic in a heavier-than-air flying machine. The desire of the United States navy department to be first to accomplish the feat is highly commendable, and it is to be hoped that its ambition will be achieved. It would be in keeping with our traditions for us to be first to cross the ocean by air, after having sent the first steamship across the water, and after having led the world in the development of transportation by rail.

It is the belief of an aviator whose opinion is entitled to high respect that only three obstacles now impede the making of 300 miles an hour by air. Two of these are mechanical; the third is the feeling akin to intense hunger which attacks the aviator flying at the high rate of speed. The feeling has not been analyzed; if it were simple hunger it could be overcome by taking a supply of food along; the explanation probably is sound that it is an affection of the nerves of the stomach caused by excessively rapid motion. But it is safe to predict that whatever it may be it will not prevent the voyage which would be made from land to land in something less than 10 hours. In the summer time it could be made in daylight without special effort.

If the ocean can be crossed, then the last corner of the world can be explored. H. G. Wells once predicted that air craft would permit the building of cities on plateaus now inaccessible. One may wonder why anyone would want to build a city on a remote plateau, but that is beside the point, which is that men are never satisfied until they have obtained the unattainable. Development of the airplane will be the means to the realization of a great spiritual ambition. The Mazama, the arctic explorer, the deliver into mysterious caves, and now the aviator, are cast in the same mold.

It is to be hoped that our navy department will do the thing right while it is making its plans. We want a non-stop, continuous flight from shore to shore. This will challenge the imagination of the world as nothing else could do. To trust to a machine which would need to pause in mid-ocean to take fuel would be to win by a fluke, if we won at all. What we want to see demonstrated is not that some flier taking a desperate chance can get across, but that the venture is practical and can be repeated. Doubtless it is and can be. One is tempted to venture the guess that it will be done some time in 1919.—Oregonian.

500,034 Troops Are Back From France.
Washington.—Troops returned from Europe and debarked in the United States total 500,034, according to a statement by the war department.

COUNCIL ISSUES WARNING

Land-Grabbing by Armed Force Ordered to End.

Paris.—The supreme war council issued a solemn warning to the world that the possession of territory gained by force will seriously prejudice the claims of those who use such means and set up sovereignty by coercion. This declaration was framed by President Wilson.

While the solemn warning with regard to the gaining of territory by force specified no countries, it covered broadly the warring elements in the Ukraine and those around Vilna and Lemberg, where bombardments have occurred, and also in the Caucasus, where the new Georgian republic is fighting the new Armenian republic; also Serbian inroads on Montenegro as well as territorial occupation along the eastern Adriatic, in Thrace and in Poland.

The state highway commission has instructed the engineer to prepare plans and specifications for a number of new paving and grading projects for which bids will be opened at the next meeting of the commission, March 26. These included: Paving 12½ miles in Coos county between Marshfield and Coquille; paving in Umatilla county between Milton and the Washington state boundary; paving 6 miles in Marion county between Jefferson and Salem; paving and grading in Linn county between Albany and Tangent; paving 4 miles in Josephine county between Wolf creek and Graw creek; paving in Douglas county between Oakland and Yoncalla and between Dillard and Myrtle creek; paving in Yamhill county between Bellevue and McMinnville; paving 3 miles in Wasco county between The Dalles and Seufert; grading in Columbia county between Scappoose and McBride; grading and graveling in Umatilla county between Echo and Morrow county line; grading 1 mile in Douglas county between Canyonville and Galesville; grading in Josephine county on Smith hill ridge.

That Frank Acosta, found dead at a lonely spot 16 miles above Tillamook his own life, is the statement of Coroner Ritter, of Douglas county, after visiting the scene. Acosta, who has hunted in the mountains in the south Umpqua country for more than 20 years, it appears, lost his footing and fell over a low ridge of rock, his rifle being discharged in the fall, the bullet striking under the left arm and coming out at the shoulder. Despairing of assistance and fearful of a lingering death, Acosta wrote a brief note stating the fact, then dragged himself several feet away, where he leaned against a log, drew his revolver and shot himself through the head.

Great interest is being manifested in the Coos bay section in the bill introduced by Representative Jones, of Lincoln and Polk counties providing for an appropriation for the construction of a Roosevelt coast highway paralleling the coast line between Astoria and the California line, a distance of approximately 300 miles. The estimated cost of the project is \$5,000,000, half of which is to be appropriated by the state and the remainder to be obtained from a federal source. Arrangements are being made by the commercial bodies of Coos county and the Coos County Good Roads association to send a delegation of representative men to Salem to urge the passage of the bill by the house and senate.

Counties may have local issues placed on the ballot at the special election on June 3, although no other state-wide measures may be voted on except those enumerated in the legislative enactment authorizing the election. This is the decision reached in an opinion given to District Attorney Gehlhar of Marion county by Attorney General Brown.

Bonds have been sold and the contract let to the Warren Construction company for the construction work amounting to \$1,500,000 on the Teel project at Echo, according to the announcement of the directors. The work will comprise an extension of the project, by means of which about 16,000 acres under the project and 4000 acres on Butter Creek will be put under water.

The Bend Athletic club is organizing as a subsidiary unit the Bend Rod and Gun club, with the purpose of bettering fish and game conditions in central Oregon. Heretofore there have been dynamiting of streams, fishing and hunting out of season and other infractions of the game protective laws. The new organization intends to co-operate with the game warden's office in doing away with these evils.