

E. G. HARLAN EDITOR
EDITORIAL SECTION
 AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
 TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS

L. K. HARLAN MANAGER
HEPPNER HERALD
 SUBSCRIPTIONS \$1.50 PER YEAR
 OUTSIDE COUNTY \$1.50

SOUP

Any person who ever studied psychology will remember the chapters in the texts devoted to Habit. Habit is a great thing in psychology and has more or less to do in the whole scheme of life. Eating soup is a habit and if persisted in long enough, it is possible to get as much nourishment and satisfaction out of the dish as it would be with a table set with meat, potatoes, bread and butter and mince pies. It has been known to lead men to believe that they were rich influential and great. Indeed, habit is a great thing.

During the Revolutionary, Civil and the Spanish-American Wars, people ate soup. The war taxes made them go to soup and some had it that we were lucky to get plenty of soup. War invariably means soup. And wars seem to come at regular intervals so that we never forget the habit of eating soup.

This year we have a novel situation. We have gone to eating soup again, but for no apparent cause. If the United States was at war, or in danger of having war declared upon it, we could then see why soup is so popular. Now the reason seems to be that we are paying a tax which some are pleased to call a war tax. It also seems as though the main reason lies with the tariff. When the Wilson administration went into office they were committed to a tariff adjustment on a scientific basis. But lo and behold they enacted the usual political scheme, a tariff made up of sectional prejudices, coming largely from the South and sandwiched with visionary and doctrinaire theories of scholastic free trade.

We have lived under that tariff about a year and the results have been the same as the previous experiments. We are paying the free trade taxes again. Before the war ever broke out the deficit was daily growing and the ways and means of meeting this were discussed. When the war broke out it was seized as an excuse for putting these taxes into effect.

If we want to pay these taxes, all right. It means that we must go back to eating soup, which has been said, is mostly a matter of habit, and when you once master the technique, it is not bad at all. In fact there are many excellent advantages in eating soup which would be to our profit to know. Few people eat soup. There is no other manner in which you can get so much good food into the system as you can in the form of soup. Soup is easy on the digestive organs and seldom do you hear of a man over-eating on soup. It's mainly a matter of habit, whether you take your food in the ordinary Republican way or in the shape of Democratic soup. Mainly a matter of habit.

The air was thick with blood-curdling threats made by different Heppner men upon the bodily well-being of certain other citizens last Friday, and for a time the fur did fly. It must have been that their Thanksgiving turkey did not rest easily upon their stomachs and they decided that a little physical exercise in this manner would do them good. A few black eyes and scarred faces resulted but everything is quiet again now. Let 'er back.

A stranger in town was heard to express a favorable opinion regarding the general condition of the city streets.

Another Annual Crop Report.

We see that our semi-mythical friend Hassan has been given more popularity by an enterprising cigarette firm. Few young men who smoke Hassan cigarettes know that Hassan was a religious character. This man first attracted attention down in Asia when he conceived that God had ordained that he should save the world. He gathered together his followers who had been converted to his scheme and they started out to bring in the East and wayward. They did not fare well and becoming exasperated, Hassan ordered a declaration of hostilities against all non-believers. So terrific were the battles which followed that his followers were called assassins and today the word still occupies a permanent place in the current coin of speech.

Throughout all times there has been an annual crop of "appointed ones" who gain more or less prominence according to their respective business ability and chances of fortune. It is not amiss to class the Kaiser in this list when one reads his statement made to the German soldiers:

"I am Jehovah's sword. God's spirit has descended upon me because I am Emperor of Germany. Woe and death be to those who resist my will, and to all who do not believe my mission and to cowards in my army. The enemies of the German people must be crushed. He it is through me who command you to fulfill His will."

It is still true that the world is yet filled with men who believe they are the "instruments of the Most High." To hear them tell it the Lord

has more "instruments" on earth that He can keep account of, for doing business, carrying on war and so on in the name of the Lord, The Most High, the Merciful God in Heaven has been the pastime of the world and there seems to be an unending line of men and generations of men who are willing to believe that such claims are just.

The Kaiser is simply one of the self-deluded men, and the Czar is another and they seem to have millions of men who are willing to have their hearts shot out of them while sharing that same supreme delusion.

Contemptible Things In Warfare.

In the "good old days" of warfare, when the rules were more or less elastic, it was as common to shoot from cannon chained balls. These upon leaving the cannon's mouth would take on a whirling movement and it was possible to mow down a swath of men ten or fifteen feet wide. Another common practice which the rules provided for was the poisoning of wells and springs and the enemy drinking of this water were exterminated with minimum labor and expense.

In late years the rules have been changed so those practices are not regarded as honorable. There is another practice which we think the Rules Committee should take drastic steps to eliminate and that is the dropping of bombs on unfortified cities and villages. A few Sundays ago an aviator flew over the beautiful church of Notre Dame and knowing that it was full of people, mainly women and children, dropped a bomb upon its roof, killing some and maiming many more.

It is a recognized custom of warfare to give warning to the citizens that the city will be bombarded and afford an opportunity for all non-combatants to get out. The Greeks and Romans did this, and instances are on record where barbarians had an understanding of this nature. Just why then warring nations at the present time send airships over an unbesieged city, one which is out of reach of their guns, as Paris is, to drop bombs loaded with nitroglycerin and petrol on women and children, for mostly women and children are left in such cities as Paris, the men being in the armies at the front. One cannot but feel that such acts are wholly unjustifiable. If airships could destroy military forces or supplies, that would be a different matter, but merely to sail over a city to scare its inhabitants and kill and maim a few who are not taking part in the fighting is an act that we must confess we cannot comprehend. Flying over non-besieged cities and scaring women and children is one of the many contemptible things now done in warfare.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

There has always lurked in the minds of men the idea that only those towns and cities in which is located a State Institution ever amount to much. While there is a saving grain of truth in this, the advantages which they confer upon any town or city have been greatly over-estimated. In the last political campaign there were many remarks made about how the re-opening of certain State Institutions would help certain towns.

In the matter of State capitals, we do not know of a single great city which has been built around a state capitol. Iowa City, Iowa, had the State University and when the B. C. R. & N. came through Iowa it wanted to go through Iowa City and make it the center of its shops. Iowa City sat back and told them to come if they wanted to come. Another little place north of Iowa City got out and met the requests of the road, worked and sacrificed and induced the railroad to come to Cedar Rapids, Oscar Minor's home town. Dozens of factories sprung up and today Cedar Rapids is one of the large manufacturing cities of the "Corn State."

Cities which rely upon institutions seldom do all that they can for themselves. They are always looking for the state to do things for them. Those who have no expectations of that kind, buckle down to work and do for themselves. The city or the state is simply an enlarged individual. When an individual starts out in life relying upon rich relatives he seldom amounts to much. His best energies are atrophied and he declines, while the young man who has had it all to make and all to win waxes strong and thrives. So it is with cities and towns. Reliance upon the State, or even upon the county seat does nothing for a town, except to often dwarf its best energies—they are the centers of the hangers-on, loafers of one kind or another, some of them shyster politicians and their contamination is like a plague on other men.

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