

Editorial Page of Home and Farm Magazine Section

Timely, Pertinent Comment Upon Men and Affairs, Following the Trend of World News;
Suggestions of Interest to Readers; Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

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TO READERS.

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Oregon - Washington - Idaho Farmer, Oregonian Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, livestock and poultry interests of the Northwest, and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited, for the Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer proclaims neutrality on these matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your livestock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

"PEACE ON EARTH."

LOOKING across the Atlantic, how sad sounds the song of the heavenly hosts, "Peace on earth; good will to men."

How vain seem the teachings of the Carpenter of Nazareth when the machinations of a few in power strike the death-knell of hundreds of thousands of virile men. And this in an age deemed Christian. While missionaries in the heart of savage lands preach the doctrine of peace and good will, the Christian nations they have left are making superhuman efforts to make of the earth a charnel-house, a mockery of the brotherhood of man.

Yet, we who live in the peaceful United States selfishly retire within the boundaries of our own land and proclaim the peace within its borders to be a gift of God.

"Lest we forget—" we are only enjoying the fruits of peace because we were fortunately free from European alliances when the war cloud loomed dark. Suppose this were a war of conquest directed toward the United States and her possessions, toward the rich lands we are bound by the Monroe Doctrine to protect from European aggrandizement. Within a few hours this nation would be pouring men and money into the insatiable mill of war, fighting for very existence.

So long as the weapons for war are manufactured and kept in readiness, just so long will the fear of war remain on this earth. The time is not now ripe for disarmament, to be sure. Yet, when the disastrous war is over the United States may have an opportunity to be the leader in a movement toward universal disarmament, the formation of a world police system and the realization of "peace on earth" and the brotherhood of man.

TOO SUGGESTIVE.

PERFECTION of cleanliness and sanitation is one of the essentials of modern surgery and one method of indicating this condition is by dazzling whiteness of appurtenances. White walls, white robes for nurses and surgeons, white sheets for swathing the patient, have been considered a necessary part of the equipment. And their spotless cleanliness is quite admirable.

Now comes a physician, in the Jefferson Hospital, of Philadelphia, who declares after an experiment noted in a California sanitarium, that this glare of whiteness is not conducive to the best sight and that a better distribution of light can be arranged through the use of dark draperies. He substituted black sheets for white ones in swathing a sur-

gical patient. The experiment was so satisfactory that other surgeons adopted the plan and many of them are now using black sheets instead of white. As a further experiment, the walls and ceiling of one of the small operating rooms in the hospital will be painted black and the surgeon, attendants and nurses will wear black.

There is no reason why black clothing should not be as surgically clean as white, but it does not so readily suggest immaculate cleanliness.

But there is an important psychological objection to the innovation. Light symbolizes life; darkness, death. The effect upon the mentality of a patient wheeled into chambers of darkness rather than into those of brilliant light is likely to be marked. The appearance of surgeons clothed in black will suggest gloom, horror, and death. Keyed to a high tension by the impending operation, a patient might suffer a mental reaction so violent upon beholding the solemn chamber suggestive of death that it would seriously interfere with his recuperative powers after the operation.

Brilliant white and a glittering array of shining surgical instruments suggests efficiency by some strange mental process which a darkened room could never produce. Perhaps it is merely custom—perhaps black has been too long associated with the morbid shades of life.

PROSPERITY AHEAD.

WHEN Senator Stone said that business prosperity is forcing itself upon this country despite the clamor of pessimists, he stated a belief that is in many minds. The origin of it in every case is the perception that our friends who are each other's enemies across the sea are raising and spending enormous sums of money for supplies which must come in large measure from this country. European orders for textiles, military supplies and foodstuffs are pouring into the United States in large and increasing volume.

Manufacturers of shoes, blankets, underwear, ammunition and other lines, for which the war has caused an unprecedented demand in this country, are working day and night to fill their orders. Steel plants are adding to their working forces and cotton exports are growing in volume. The prosperity which these activities are bringing is indeed forced upon the country, but there is another prosperity which is not forced.

It will be a better, broader and more permanent prosperity because it is not founded upon war abroad, but upon changes at home which make for better understanding among all classes and a profounder confidence in the industrial destiny of the Nation. Let the pessimists say what they will when expressing their carefully prepared criticisms of existing conditions, they cannot conceal their conviction that in the currency law, in the changing attitude of the public toward capital, of capital toward its responsibilities, of the people toward the railroads and in the growing movement toward the development of foreign commerce there is promise of National advancement which will not fail.

There is not the slightest danger that cattle affected with the foot-and-mouth disease can be slaughtered for food at any market where Federal inspection is maintained, and meat from such animals would

not be in any degree dangerous to human life or health.

The public knows this or should know it, but it seems to make no difference. Just as long as the papers are full of items about the disease, just so long will people refuse to eat beef and turn to other meats—poultry, fish, etc. As President Wilson would say, it is a psychological boycott against beef, but it is none the less real and effective, and accounts for the general demoralization of the cattle market at this time.

THE "SHOW" BIRD.

WITH the numerous poultry shows in the Northwest at this time of the year, chickens assume a position of importance quite in keeping with their value to the farmer. The keeping of poultry is now known to be the second largest industry in the United States, and "poultry," while it may include turkeys, ducks, or any barnyard fowl, is conceded mainly to mean chickens.

A criticism has been made of poultry shows to the effect that they tend toward development of a show bird, a type that is not of utilitarian value. While this may be true to some extent, the poultry show improves breeding conditions and knowledge of chicken-raising, which is of inestimable value. And, though it is not always true, the show-bird is often a combination of the very best qualities of the egg-layer and breeder.

It may be said in defense of the Southern cotton-growers, in the midst of the agitation against depending upon one crop, that they are scarcely more one-crop farmers than are many of the wheat and corn-growers of the West. The crusade is directed against the cotton farmer just now because the war has curtailed the market for his crop, while it has broadened the market for the wheat and corn farmer. It is to be remembered that in the long run the world does not grow more cotton than the world needs. Good cotton lands are not to be found everywhere. But all this is no argument against diversity in farming. It simply indicates why certain sections run largely to single crops.

The only thing that seems perfectly clear from a consideration of the numerous victories and defeats in Europe is that nobody is gaining much and that somebody must be wearing out.

If the British embargo on all exports of wool to the United States should become too serious, an intimation that embargoes work both ways would doubtless loosen it.

What's the use of being unfriendly? There is nothing in the world more pleasant than a host of good friends. Cultivate a few and see for yourself.

Now that Oregon and Washington have voted "dry," a number of schooners may be expected to strand while crossing the bar.

Latin-America wants the belligerents to keep out of its territory. That was all Belgium wanted.

If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some—Benjamin Franklin.

The allies want to make Colombia behave. It can't be done.