

A Page of Editorials for the Home and Farm Magazine Section

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TO READERS

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Home and Farm Magazine Section, 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. We proclaim 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.

KNOW THYSELF.

"**K**NOW thyself," says the philosopher, and his words pass unheeded by. One man in a thousand hesitates in the busy maelstrom of modern life to analyze himself, and his motives. The others play their little parts in the great drama of existence, never stopping to ask the question, "why?" Yet often in the answering of that query lies a sought-for happiness.

The complexities of existence on the farm or in the city are such as to discourage the turning of the mirror upon oneself. But, lest life be futility, know thyself. A little self-analysis may be surprising in its ultimate results. The screen of hypocrisy under which all of us labor to a greater or less degree will be pierced and the man that is seen beneath may be a total stranger.

When are you yourself? Surely not in the crowd of fellow-men when you are doing your utmost to hide that of selfishness, vanity and general cussedness that is in you. Why, you are not even yourself when alone. How many times have you found yourself reasoning with your own conscience, in an endeavor to excuse to yourself some misstep? Why not be yourself, and admit that it is possible you were wrong? Have you never felt disgusted with yourself—the self you know to be a superficial one, but to all outward appearances the real self?

Casting aside shams and subterfuges is not advisable in modern society. It isn't popular. But at least be frank with yourself. Know yourself—and take care that you are not ashamed of yourself when you have found your true nature.

PROSPERITY MUST COME.

(Editorial in Eugene Guard.)

THE Kansas City newspapers are boasting that the bank deposits in that city have increased \$28,000,000 in four months. This gain in volume of money on hand is attributed partially to big crops in 1914 and good prices. In other parts of the country the bank deposits have been increasing despite hard times. In the state of New York the amount due savings bank depositors on January 1 last was almost \$30,000,000 in excess of that due them at the first of the previous year. Furthermore, most of this increase

came in the last six months of the year, after the European war had thrown many people out of employment and demoralized the financial and business worlds. And not only in the total amount of cash on deposit but in the number of depositors as well was there a marked increase, the banks reporting 27,000 more accounts as compared with a year ago.

The New York superintendent of banks gives figures which prove in a convincing way that the time when people are saving most is not when they are making the most money. In boom times, when every branch of business and every maker is prospering, the thought of thrift does not intrude itself upon a large percentage of the people. When money is hard to get more thought is taken of the future, and the inclination to spend freely is checked.

To those economists who have been advocating the general adoption of a "buy-it-now" policy on the part of the individual the testimony of the savings banks may not seem pleasant. To those who appreciate the fact that the only way to woo prosperity is to begin with the fundamentals it affords much encouragement. There is a difference between saving and hoarding. The money which is deposited in the savings banks is sure, sooner or later, to find its way into permanent investment in conservative and constructive enterprise.

THE LESSON OF APPOMATTOX.

THE celebration at Appomattox of the great event which took place there 50 years ago should appeal strongly to everybody. What more fitting, what could possibly do more good, than to celebrate at this time a peace which came after a long and bloody struggle, and when hope of peace had almost died out of many hearts? Repeated negotiations and the most fervent prayers seemed to have failed.

But the dawn came after the darkest hour. Grant and Lee met by appointment at the obscure place named, and the former by his generous terms, and the latter by his complete acceptance of the fortunes of war as they stood revealed to him as a soldier, laid the foundations of the peace that followed, and of a reunited country stronger in the affections of the people than it had ever been before.

Let those who are in despair about present conditions in Europe study the story of our fratricidal strife and take hope. Men in arms are swearing eternal hate; but the spirit will not last. Cities and rich farming stretches are being laid waste; but they will rise and flourish again. Peace looks distant, but it may be close at hand.

When the guns cease booming and the battle flags are furled, the combatants will pull themselves together and address themselves to the noble work of regeneration. To lend a hand to that will become not only a duty, but a happiness; and the most active and effective for peace will be those who are now the most active and effective in the war.

Europe is losing heavily in men. So did we lose. Her best are offering themselves freely. Such was the offering of our best. Sections trampled by the contending armies are being deeply scarred. So were ours.

Appomattox is in Virginia; and no state suffered so much during our

war as the Old Dominion. She was the cockpit of the colossal struggle, and at the end was wrecked and prostrate. But look at her today—fair again, prosperous again, and better built than before, and her farmers are getting a larger yield from their lands than before.

BEYOND BELIEF.

THE stories set afloat in Petrograd to the effect that Austria-Hungary is seeking a separate peace with Russia should not be taken seriously. They are far too improbable.

The dual monarchy may be in distress and its rulers may be more disheartened than they let the world know, but they will not turn against the great empire which went to war for their sake. It would be dishonorable and also full of peril.

Germany had no quarrel with Russia except as ally of Austria-Hungary. War came to Berlin through Vienna. For Austria-Hungary to quit the field now and leave her ally alone, except for Turkey, to fight against enormous odds, would leave the empire-kingdom in the Danube valley without a real friend in Europe.

Then Germany would feel greater bitterness against her former ally than she does now against any of her present enemies, even Great Britain, and the nations allied against Germany and Austria-Hungary would have no respect for the power they made use of to isolate their strongest foe.

The position of Austria-Hungary, under such circumstances, would necessarily be very insecure. Surrounded by enmity and contempt, the future would look black to the most sanguine of the empire-kingdom's people.

For these practical reasons, not to speak of national obligations and honor, it cannot be true that Austria-Hungary has even hinted at a separate peace, disloyal and destructive to Germany.

REAL NEUTRALITY.

THE United States is neutral in the present war, but no one pretends that it is not interested vitally in its course and issue, says the Portland Oregonian. Neutrality does not mean that we should be indifferent to what happens, or in what manner, and to whom it happens; but it does mean that there shall be no interference by us as between the belligerents, and no partiality, open or secret, by the National Government.

It is undeniable that there have been from individuals and from newspapers definite expressions of support or opposition for or against the one side or the other; but they have not in any way affected the correct and consistent policy of President Wilson toward all the nations at war nor the fixed desire of all the people that we shall not be involved.

If any attempt were to be made to interpret the real National feeling of the people of the United States toward the whole dreadful European tragedy, it would doubtless take the shape primarily of a definite hope that the war should end speedily. The average American citizen's idea runs about in the following fashion:

He does not wish to see the German empire dismembered and destroyed, nor the German people prevented from achievement of their

natural and proper destiny in the commercial, intellectual and scientific world.

He does not wish to see the British empire conquered and overthrown, nor its people humiliated, nor its place in the sun lost through crushing defeat.

He does not want to see France overrun by an alien enemy, nor its capital seized, nor its treasury mulcted, nor its national influence lessened by subjugation.

He does not want to see Belgium blotted out, nor its men, women and children starved, nor a fair and full opportunity denied to the Little Kingdom again to come to its own.

He does not want to see Serbia swallowed by Austria, nor held prostrate before the aggressions of its larger neighbor.

He does not want to see Austria-Hungary torn and divided, nor its territory captured by any ambitious power, nor its right vetoed to a free development of its own civilization and national growth.

He does not want to see Russia over-run Germany, nor Austria, nor any other part of Europe; but he thinks that Russia has a right to an outlet through the Dardanelles and to an elevation to the standards of other nations.

He does not want to see the territory of any unwilling people given to any conqueror as the spoils of war; and he has no relish for the possible plan of any victor, or combination of victors, to remake the map of Europe.

He is opposed to the whole bloody and horrible business of war, and if it could be stopped, and if the several nations could resume the respective positions in which the conflict found them, and in the pursuits of peace and industry strive to achieve their various aims, he would feel that an ideal solution had been found.

They've prohibited hunting in a Delaware county to prevent the spread of cattle disease. If it weren't for the epidemic, the gunners could go ahead shooting themselves without interference.

"Not one step backward" is the Kaiser's command to his troops. German officers ordering a retreat will be careful to say: "About face, forward march!"

Among the various fraternal societies not on the increase is the somewhat theoretical organization commonly known as "The Brotherhood of Man."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer says that "Ohio twins were born in different places." There ought to be a cash prize for the correct answer.

If it takes five months to learn of the British success at Ypres, how long will it take to find out that peace has been declared?

A certain Portland daily newspaper front page headline says: 'Bumpas Hellhole Erupts.' What else could you expect?

The Mayors are discussing public ownership. Some cities could, with profit, apply it to the Mayors themselves.

Philadelphia municipal hospital reports that the fox trot soothes the insane. We suspected this long ago.