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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR MORROW COUNTY.

Thursday, March 8, 1917.

HARRY LANE IS CONSISTENT.

Harry Lane, representing the State of Oregon in the Halls of the National Congress and one of the twelve filibustering senators who prevented the passage of President Wilson's armed neutrality bill, is only acting consistently with his past record. His latest disgrace only brands him the deeper as a "peace-at-any-price" advocate.

During the recent election Lane, as a professed democrat, took the stump in the State of Oregon for the re-election of Woodrow Wilson. He upheld the president in the Mexican situation and gave his hearty endorsement to the present administration. But Senator Lane would do nothing that would tend to throw this country into war. National honor is one thing that he never professed.

From campaign speeches, we take it that Senator Lane had always at heart the wishes of his constituency back home. Yet he surely does not dare to insult this constituency by turning his back on the president in the hours of what is probably the greatest crisis in the Nation's history. He has overlooked the fact that the State of Oregon is standing solidly behind the president.

He has disgraced the State while trying to make present acts consistent with those of the past. There never was one good reason for sending a man like Harry Lane to Congress anyway, so Oregon's share in this deplorable affair, and the shame of it all, is a just reward, an ample pay for public short-sightedness.

A "BETTER ROADS" CLUB.

Now that the State Legislature has adopted some real constructive legislation for better roads in Oregon, and have gone so far as to refer to the people the proposition of bonding for permanent highways, it would not be amiss at this time to start active work over the state in organizing "Better Roads" Clubs.

The special election for voting on the bond issue has been set for June 4th. This is a short time indeed in which the people of a big state have for a study and comprehensive understanding of the bill and the various things to be worked out in conjunction with floating a bond issue for better roads.

The idea which has been suggested by Frank A. Rowe, a prominent good roads advocate of Wheeler, Oregon, that there be clubs organized in every section of Oregon to work for the passage of the road bonding measure, is a good one. The duties of these clubs would be principally in dealing with the importance of the great practical benefits accruing to the state by adopting the bond measure. Publicity campaigns could be carried on in this manner, through the aid of the newspapers, and a great campaign of education waged. It is granted that there will be universal support for the measure, once it is completely understood.

There is no section of the State of Oregon that will be more benefitted by the adoption of the road bonding measure than Morrow county. Consequently it behooves every active better roads enthusiast to get into the harness. Heppner can well afford to be among the first to take an active hand in this campaign. And later when the delegates are chosen to sit with the "State Better Roads Committee" we will be in position for just representation. The suggestions of Mr. Rowe should be followed out with all possible haste, for we believe that in this manner it will be found the most equitable way in carrying on the proper campaign.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

"This," President Wilson rightly maintains in his second inaugural address, "it not the time for retrospect." It is the urgent moment for considering today and tomorrow, deciding with what speed we may what we should do, and then girding ourselves to swift, strong, sagacious action."

European affairs which lay outside of America's life as a nation, matters whose origin and course we could not affect, have pushed their malign consequences over the whole world and have drawn America more and more closely to the vortex of the whirlpool. They have inevitably divided the public opinion of the American people according to its diverse racial origins or its political beliefs and sympathies or its industrial and economic interests. Yet, as we have slowly come to see and as President Wilson says for us all, the people of this country have drawn more closely together and have gained a growing general consciousness that this nation and government have the task to discharge "of those who mean to vindicate and fortify peace."

The people will ask their president how peace is to be vindicated and fortified? The president replies: "We have been obliged to arm ourselves. * * * We stand firm in armed neutrality. * * * We may even be drawn by circumstances to more active assertion of our rights and more immediate association with the great struggle."

This is the solemn and final reply of the spokesman of the American people to the German government. It is the announcement that President Wilson will not maintain peace at any price. He will not maintain it at the price of justice, of

righteousness, of self-respect, of wisdom. Rather than that price for peace he will fight.

The statement later of what America stands for, whether at war or in peace, repeats ideas expressed originally to the senate last December. The repetition of them performs a service to the European belligerents and ourselves. The only declaration in the inaugural address which will please Americans better is that "we are being forged into a new unit." But this demands that all Americans stand as one man behind the president.—Spokesman-Review.

THE SHAMEFUL DILLY-DALLYING OF CONGRESS.

The pages of American history are stained with the blood of the victims of Indian atrocity, but the mind of no American Indian was ever more exultantly bloodthirsty than the German mind that conceived this campaign of organized manslaughter against non-combatants and compelled its servile subjects to carry out the decrees of butchery. The Indian, too, fought from ambush, but at least he refrained from massacring those whom he called his friends. German savagery spares nobody, neither women nor children, neither the helplessly old nor the helplessly young, neither foe nor friend.

Yet despite these latest records of German slaughter, congress dawdles, intrigues and shirks its duty. Another day has passed without definite action on the resolution to give the president power to protect American lives and American ships. The house committee has emasculated the senate resolution, and nobody knows when a vote will be reached in either branch of congress, which has only three days more in which to finish its work. The stage is set for a filibuster which may defeat not only this legislation, but other legislation of vital importance to the national welfare.

Pro-German propagandists, professional pacifists and reactionary republicans conspiring to levy political blackmail upon the president are linked into unholy alliance against the honor and dignity of the United States. All of them are assistant Germans, playing Germany's game and giving aid and comfort to German ruthlessness.

There have been many shameful scenes in congress, but no other scene so shameful as that which is now staged at the capitol. If congress, in its sluggish indifference to the honor and dignity of the United States as well as the rights and sovereignty of the United States, is truly representative of the American people, then God save the republic!—New York World.

THE GERMAN RETREAT.

At last the prime reason for the great retreat of the German army on the Western front has come to light. Press reports state that the British troops have found the vacated trenches of Teutonic armies to be in the worst state of unsanitary condition imaginable. The report says that the Germans retreated because they were fast becoming a garrison of gibbering lunatics. "Their position had become more hideous than the scuppers of hell. Mud, bottomless in places, and the ceaseless pounding of the British guns had turred their positions into stench pits too horrible for human nerves to stand." These are the conditions found by a press correspondent after the German retreat.

The press correspondent gives a graphic account of war as it is fought in the European trenches and the almost unbelievable results therefrom. He said, "I found myself stepping on German bodies which littered the region. They were in all imaginable conditions and positions—sometimes piled several deep. I saw arms sticking full length out of the mud that concealed all else of the body to which they were attached. There were legs, feet, half bodies or heads alone protruding. Some lay face downward, some were prone on their backs exactly as if asleep. * * * Imagine scenes like this covering miles. Imagine every trace of vegetation long since blasted away. Imagine the earth powder-stained and churned up from 10 to 30 feet in depth. Imagine mud so bottomless that the German prisoners claim their men were frequently swallowed up whole in attempting to cross after dark."

There is a limit to all human endurance and the German soldier is not immune from the accumulated nerve-racking stenches of a long occupied trench. Retreat was better than a slow, agonizing death.

Our County Court seems to be somewhat puzzled on the road bonding question, and at a loss just how to proceed on the proposition at this time. They are convinced of one thing, however, and that is the Court should take no steps at this time looking to the placing of this issue before our people for a vote until it has been settled whether or not the bonding issue before the state carries in June. They seem to think there will be no question as to this, but as that question is understood at present, our county will not be in position to take advantage of the bonding law unless we see fit to bond the county also for the funds necessary to prepare the road bed along the routes of the Columbia Highway as outlined in the proposed law. Whether our people will be in favor of this remains to be seen. Under the new road code adopted by the recent legislature, the Court would be authorized in making a levy of as much as ten mills for the general road fund of the county, and this scheme would in the end prove better than the bonding issue. There is plenty of time, however, to get right on this question before it is put up to our people. The \$6,000,000 bonds will very likely be voted by the State at large; at least it looks that way from this distance.

The "Fall of a Nation," pictured at the Star Theatre on Wednesday evening is a film of high order, and well calculated to arouse the true American spirit. In the light of very recent developments it can readily be seen that this portrayal of what might happen to the United States in its present unprepared condition to meet a foreign foe, stands out very distinctly. It is now past time that our citizenship should be thoroughly aroused to the dangers from without and within our borders.

Some slight indication that Spring is on the way. Several sunshiny days this week and that which we are anxiously looking for should soon arrive.

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