

EDITORIAL SECTION

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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR MORROW COUNTY.



Thursday, August 2, 1917.

PAYING APPALLING PRICE FOR UNPREPAREDNESS.

Assistant Secretary Vrooman declared in his armory address that the cause for which Columbia has drawn the sword is so sublime as to justify the government in spending money "like a drunken sailor."

When the figures are weighed the term used by Mr. Vrooman to emphasize his utterances loses much of its seeming extravagance. America's war bill, already incurred or in the way of being incurred, totals \$17,000,000,000 for this year alone—\$170 for every man, woman and child in the nation.

Much the greater part of that gigantic sum is the penalty for unpreparedness. Half of these billions would have maintained universal compulsory military training for half a century. If we had had universal training for 10 years we should now be immensely better prepared to grapple with Germany

than we shall be at the end of the coming year after the government has spent this \$17,000,000,000.

And the heart-breaking tragedy of it all is that war has come upon us through unpreparedness and by reason of unpreparedness. German militarists defied us because they thought we were impotent. They contemptuously dismissed our protests.

If we had been prepared through universal training—if Germany had known that we had a reserve of 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 trained citizen soldiers, with all the rifles and equipment needed for their immediate service, ready to throw upon the firing line behind the stupendous artillery barrage of France and England—one of two very different situations would now lie before us.

In all probability Germany would have refrained from using the submarine against passenger liners and American merchant vessels; would have respected our neutrality; would have avoided all violation of our laws, all bomb plots and crimes of arson and other lawless intrigues in this country.

But even though Berlin had thrown all prudence to the winds America, with the preparedness of universal training, would have been able to fight the war to a triumphant end with but a fraction of the cost of life and treasure which we must now pour into the desperate conflict.—Spokesman Review.

Morrow county is proud of the fact that we have here in Heppner one of the finest court houses to be found in the state. It is now almost isolated on account of the condition of the side walks leading up to it. One piece of walk leading up to the May street bridge is so wobbly that it makes one almost seasick while crossing over. Here and there loose boards fly up from one end to crack the pedestrians on the shins, or maybe throw some aged woman violently to the walk. Such conditions should not exist. If we have said anything about these walks that sounds harsh or overdrawn, we would advise you to take an inspection trip over this route up May street to the court house. If you get all the way over without stumbling, you have walked in luck. The city may avert a damage suit if the property owners along May street on both sides leading up to the May street bridge are asked to improve these walks soon.

PLAYING THE WORLD FOR A FOOL.

Chancellor Michaelis discovers new evidence of entente plotting. It is a conspiracy born of land hunger, of the greed for national aggrandizement. Alsace-Lorraine is the stake and the German empire is to be the victim.

The worthy chancellor simply dresses an old idea in the new raiment of an alleged alarm.

It is a touching cry that goes up from the German Macedonia. The more touching because, coincident with the discovery of this wicked conspiracy to despoil the empire of a people conquered and held in unwilling subjection for nearly fifty years, leading German papers, that are always in the full cry of Prussian sentiment, announce it to be inconceivable that Belgium should be released, or that the German frontiers in the East should retire from where the fortunes of war have at this time extended them.

The victim of an insane arrogance is never able to get a true perspective of the subject matter on which his delusion is based. That is the only plausible explanation for Dr. Michaelis, seeking as the mouthpiece of the kaiser, to play the world for a fool.—Portland Telegram.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

"Great Britain has now in the field or in training approximately 5,000,000 soldiers," remarked Lieutenant White, an English officer, at the Willard. "There are about 100 regiments each with a distinctive name and for the most part with a distinctive uniform. These regiments are old institutions pregnant with tradition, such as the Royal Scots, the Fusiliers, the Coldstream guards and the Gordon Highlanders. Each regiment has great numbers of battalions. You see, the military unit in England is entirely different from that in this country. For instance, a battalion in America comprises perhaps 400 men and a regiment at the minimum, say, 2000. In England it is entirely different. A battalion has 1000 men and a regiment may consist of any number of battalions. The Fusiliers, for instance, comprise 38 battalions. In each battalion there are four companies of 250 men with two captains.

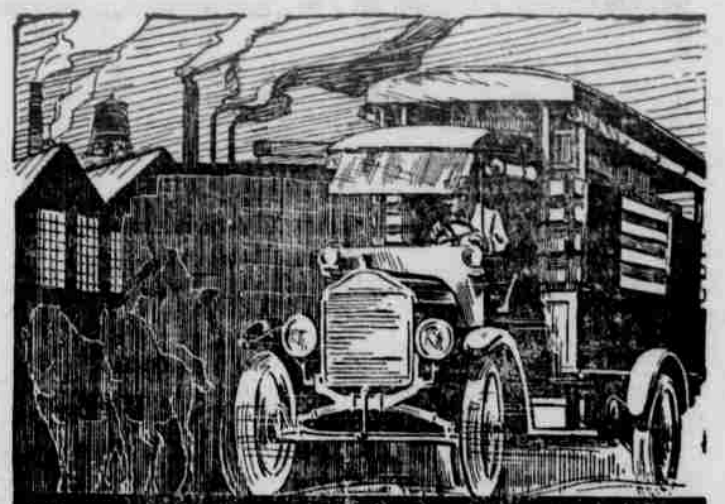
"At the beginning of the war the standing army of Great Britain did not exceed 250,000 men. Every regiment has been recruited and rerecruited, and I venture to say that there is not a regiment in the army that has 100 of its men left who went in to service at the beginning.

"While the English people several months ago really believed that it would be better for the allies if the United States were to maintain its neutrality, they have experienced a change of mind, and now everybody is heartily glad that America has come into the war, believing that it will hasten the end. Nobody in England has any doubt about the outcome of the war, but all realize that it is a big task and that progress necessarily must be slow."—Washington Post.

Another state joined in the funeral procession of John Barleycorn when Utah went dry last Tuesday at midnight. Congress will have to hurry or the U. S. will be all dry before they have the honor.

Heat wave in New York killed 23 people in one day. And yet some of us Morrow county people had begun to believe that we were having hot weather here. We are just fortunately situated and don't know it.

The Morrow County Fair is just six weeks away. Are you making preparations?



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