

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

SABBATH PATRIOTISM.

Justly may the G. A. R. Memorial Day Committee register a protest against the present non-observance of Memorial Day, May 30th.

In a timely article from the "National Tribune" attention is directed to the growing tendency of the American people to substitute for this National Sabbath of Patriotism, a day of sports, recreation and leisure.

This same protest has elsewhere been voiced in the lack of a proper observance of Thanksgiving Day, when prayers of thanksgiving are too often drowned out by the cheers of football games.

This reversion to the holiday spirit on Memorial Day can be traced in a large measure to the thinning ranks of the veterans of the Civil War, who but a few short years ago were constant reminders of the sacredness of the occasion.

Memorial Day was established by the Grand Army of the Republic, May 30, 1868, for the purpose of commemorating the ideals of the dead of the Union Army, a day that has been laid in such tender respect that forty of the greatest states of the Union have gravely incorporated it into their laws—not for a day of "sports," but that the people might pause and think of their mighty dead.

Possibly with the return these days of our heroes from the World War, more respect and true observance of this Memorial Day may be in evidence. For our soldier boys of today can more clearly sympathize with and sorrow for their brothers of the days of '61, who received little from the Government on their return. Those soldiers of our fathers were greeted with no triumphal arches, no pensions commensurate with the perils endured, no waiting jobs, no soft berths. Those armies passed in review in ragged regiments, an army of tramps in appearance, bound for home or what remained of the home. The fires were dead in the forge, the farms had grown to weeds, the tools were rusty, the boys were too old to return again to their interrupted schooling. There were no vocational schools, no schools for blinded soldiers. The shell shocked and injured went on in that condition or died in insane asylums.

Let's try to modify some of the "sporting program" for next Memorial Day and pause for a few moments at least, in true sympathy and respect for our heroes.—Oregon Voter.

Fifteen million, five hundred thousand women will vote in the next presidential election. Iowa is the last state to grant presidential suffrage, the eighth state in the last three months.—Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Vermont. Only one state remains west of the Mississippi.—New Mexico, where women may not vote for president. Women have a considerable form of suffrage in 29 states, equal suffrage in fifteen, presidential suffrage in twelve and primary suffrage in two. The number of states in which women have presidential suffrage have a total electoral vote of 302. The Pennsylvania House has passed a resolution to submit suffrage to the voters of the state in 1921. The Florida legislature has defeated suffrage.

WORLD GOES BOLSHEVİK.

The New York World, loyally democratic, is foaming at the mouth because of some of the actions of Postmaster General Burleson, who has been such a burden to the newspaper publishers. Now if the World would lose sight of purely newspaper interests for a while and consider the burdens which have been placed upon bankers by Skelton Williams, upon railroads by McAdoo, upon merchants by the food administration, etc., etc., perhaps the country would feel that the World is really desirous of promoting the welfare of all the people. And if the World could lay aside its intense partisanship long enough to charge responsibility to the real source of authority, the president, there would be some evidence of sincerity. So long as the World continues to support an administration which persecutes the country in so many ways, there will be little disposition to give it credit for sincerity when it attacks the particular persecutor from whose act it suffers.—Pendleton Tribune.

THOUGHTLESS TAXATION.

It is as easy to develop a spirit of recklessness in taxation as it is in spending money. In the latter case the reckless spender pays the price of his own extravagance.

Spending tax money is now a mania and it is time to look toward more economic taxation methods and also spending of taxes.

There is entirely too much feeling that Congress can plaster on taxes and that there is nothing left to do but pay.

It is easily possible to tax an industry and those dependent on it, clear out of business. Take for example the extra five per cent excise tax on candy and confectionary.

To the thoughtless legislator, it is a simple thing to raise a large sum by a special tax on candy makers.

As candy manufacturers cannot stand any such tax out of their profits, it must be added to selling price or taken out of quality.

If the former, consumption is cut, thus adversely affecting western sugar beet growing and manufacture and reducing amount the consumers of this country get for their money. If manufacturers try to absorb the tax by making an inferior product at the former price, the people pay in quality and the sugar industry suffers.

This is a good illustration of special or class taxation and there is altogether too much of it in this country today. It is high time to start on getting back to the true American principle of equal taxation for all, not only in candy manufacture but other lines of industry.

The candy industry is the 35th largest in the United States. It employs hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people, mostly women. It supplies a food product which is the great joy and pleasure of childhood and is a wholesome, nourishing food, supplying the system with an essential requirement. Is it right or just to burden this or any other great industry with a special tax which it can obviously not stand.

It is the height of folly in these times to handicap any industry by killing taxation, when employment is needed as the one sure counteractive in Bolshevism.—The Manufacturer.

Julius H. Barnes, newly appointed U. S. wheat administrator, says the five-cent loaf of bread not only will not come back this year, but it probably will never come back. When asked if there was any chance of the five-cent loaf returning, he said: "Flour is 45 per cent of the cost of the completed loaf, so you see it would take a considerable fall in the price of wheat to bring down bread even one cent a loaf. When you talk of cutting the price of bread in two, you see you would have to reduce wheat to 25 per cent of its present figure. That seems out of the question. I see little hopes of getting the five-cent loaf of bread back if wages and other expenses are to stay where they are. I am not even convinced it would be desirable, if all the other living levels would have to follow it."

THOSE FARM COSTS.

We rather think that Secretary of Agriculture Huston has the right of it when he says that there are no figures on which to base definite conclusions as to the cost of raising crops, stock, or produce.

How can you decide what, for example, is a legitimate cost to raise a bushel of potatoes?

We spent an hour figuring the other evening and discovered that if you figured your time at 30 cents an hour, day laborer's wages, it costs about \$2.35 for a good husky city gardener to grow a bushel of potatoes in his back yard.

We can present detailed figures if desired.

But a big corporation that prepares the seed bed with tractors, that plants with machinery, that cultivates with motors, that harvests with more machinery, that grades and packs with machinery, and that has its own storage houses and trucks for transportation, can probably grow potatoes for dimes where yours would cost you dollars.

Somewhere between is the average American potato field on the farm.

But just exactly whereabouts no man knows.

What is going to be the basis for a just estimate?

If you force the average farmer to compete, either with corporate capital and management, or oriental truck growers you drive him out of business; and if you take the cost sheet of the one-horse farmer for your price basis you rob the consumer.

Probably every farm in the country can prove that it costs it a distinctly different price to produce any given thing it does produce, than any other farm would show.

Some men have capital and know how to make it work for them.

Some are worth a tractor in themselves.

Most farmers are like most other businessmen and workers, just fairly capable, industrious and long headed.

But where secure your cost figures?

POOR BUSINESS TO WAIT.

Farm products have a greater purchasing power today than ever before in the country's history.

This may explain why rural districts of the country are rapidly getting under way with building and construction work.

It is obvious, since building and construction work have such an important bearing at this time on stimulating general business, the farmer may serve both his own and national interest by at once making needed improvements on his property.

Many farmers have been unable to get materials and labor for barns, silos, houses and other improvements during the war.

The farmer who at once avails of the labor supply and gets his improvement work under way, in the long run, may prove to be the prudent business man, for there is reason to believe that farmers who delay in the hope of materially reduced construction costs will have been deprived of the use of the improvements and in the end be forced to pay approximately the building prices now prevailing.

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