

Heppner Gazette Times

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WE'LL HAVE TO DIG

Report from an authoritative source is to the effect that Morrow county is not living up to its well earned reputation for putting things over insofar as the raising of funds to outfit a sunroom at McCaw General hospital in Walla Walla is concerned. Some donations of materials have been received but cash subscriptions are mostly conspicuous in their absence. This doesn't seem right, especially when the amount needed is a paltry \$250. Perhaps the sum is too small, too insignificant to command our attention. Nevertheless, it is a serious matter with those torn and broken bodies that have to get what comfort they can from hard benches and lack of other facilities that go to make convalescing successful. Let us bear in mind that the hospitalization of our fighting men has only fairly begun and that the campaign for properly caring for them is yet in its infancy. Also let us not forget that Morrow is the only county in the district that has not completed outfitting a sunroom at the hospital. We don't like to use the expression until it becomes threadbare but it looks like "we'll have to dig."

IF WE GET SOFTHEARTED IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN

Rex Stout, the author, speaking not long ago to the Canadian Club at Montreal, Canada, put up a strong case for treating Germany sternly after the war, until they are cleared of the illusion that they are a master race.

He said: "From 1919 to 1939 the Germans squealed and grumbled. They started the moment the armistice bound us to stop shooting at them. There was not a moment they were not complaining of our inhuman treatment of them, and did we fall for it! We reduced reparation payments; we eased it again under the Dawes' plan. We stabilized their currency, lent them vast sums of money and materials, admitted them to world cartels, published dozens of books confessing our guilt and sympathizing with the poor mistreated Germans. The more softhearted we became, the louder they whined.

"But there are certain facts that must be faced. In 1917 when the U. S. declared war on Germany, President Wilson appointed an alien property custodian to take over all German-owned property. That was done and the total value was about 500 million. None was ever returned; it was kept to satisfy war claims. So in 1920 there was no German-owned property in the United States.

"When war was declared in the current war, again an alien property custodian was appointed. Within four months that official had taken over German-owned property in the United States to the tune of 3 billion dollars. All but the smallest fraction had been accumulated by Germans between 1920 and 1935, the year when they began making frantic preparations for war, halting temporarily their over seas' aggrandizements. So, during the 15 years when they were constantly howling about our cruel suffocation of their economic life, they were piling up investments in the U. S. A. at the rate of over 200 million a year. This does not mention what they were piling up in South America, Italy and dozens of other places.

"They are going to try it again. They are already starting it, polishing up the same kind of lies with which they had such success last time. And the lies are not a bit sillier than the ones they did so well with last time.

"When we win the war and the Germans kick

out Hitler, Goering, etc., they are going to tell us that they see the light and the nasty men misled them. So what are we going to do. We are going to be exhausted with the long war strain. But if we need to steel ourselves to win the fight, we need a thousand times more to steel ourselves to resist the temptation of the German plea. Millions of us with bigger hearts than heads will immediately want to shake hands and call it a day. But if through pressure of various groups who also encourage this idea, we let slip through our fingers the chance to organize a decent world, then our children or grandchildren will be fighting Germans again.

"If the past 75 years have not taught us that the Germans have become infected with an idiotic belief in their divine mission as a master race, and that this belief must somehow be taken out of them before there is any chance of arranging a peaceful world then we are making fools of ourselves in spending money to defeat them in battle. Last time we stopped shooting at their first request for armistice. If this time their cities get plenty of bombing and we keep on marching till we get to Berlin, it is possible that they may realize the game wasn't worth the candle and relinquish for all time the maniacal obsession. But we must achieve that end. We dare not permit easy compassion or weariness of spirit to stop short of that goal. If we do, we have lost, as completely as if the Germans and Japs had blasted us to submission.

"There can be no compromise, for they do not represent tyranny they represent anarchy. They respect no rules and are therefore tree barbarians. We are going to lick them on the battlefield. Good. But all our sacrifices will have been in vain if we do not hold firmly to our victory once we get it. Fascism and Naziism are only two words. Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo are only three men. Our real enemies are neither these two words nor these three men, but all people everywhere who are willing to compromise with evil and negotiate with anarchy. We are fighting for the right and opportunity to organize a decent world. If we are fighting for nothing and nothing is exactly what we will get."

FOR A FREE PRESS

A free press, which in effect is free speech, was highlighted in most of the discussions at the Oregon Newspaper association meeting in Eugene the past week. It was stressed by Oregon publishers and by speakers appearing on the program by consent of federal bureaus. Most emphatically declaring for freedom of the press in conveying war and domestic news are Donald Sterling, retiring director of the domestic branch of the Office of War Information, and E. Palmer Hoyt, the new director. Both of these men are Oregonians. Both are prominent newspaper men—one managing editor of the Oregon Daily Journal and the other the publisher of the Morning Oregonian. They know whereof they speak when they declare that an unhampered press is essential to the promotion of the war as well as to the preservation of our way of life.

In accepting the post of director of the domestic branch of the OWI, Mr. Hoyt stated:

"This office will not be concerned with 'propagandizing' the American people. My policy is to give the country the straight information about the war, and to give it to them straight.

"This means that there will be no pamphleteering from this office. It also means that this office will yield to no political interests. This is an office of War Information; it will deal only with information about the war.

"We Americans have never needed to be urged to win the war. But we work best when we know what we're working for, sacrifice most when we know what we're sacrificing for, endure the longest when we know what we're enduring for. The more we know about the war the faster we'll win it. OWI's job is to furnish that knowledge."

A definition explaining the situation in Washington and heard at the newspaper conference several times: "It has now changed from a state of unorganized chaos to one of organized confusion."

UP FROM PORTLAND

Glenn Jones and son Billy are spending a few days in Heppner this week, coming from their home in Portland. They have been assisting Mrs. Emma Jones in moving her household goods. She is living in the house recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Van Horn, who now reside at the Curran apartments.

GUESTS OF HOWES

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Jensen and children, Joyce and Keith, arrived in Heppner Thursday and are guests at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Bennie Howe. Mr. Jensen is the new superintendent of the Lexington schools.

OLIVETIMER VISITS

Dave Brown, once a farmer of the Blackhorse section, has been renewing acquaintances in Heppner this week. He disposed of his farming interests here about 34 years ago, leaving for California, and this is his first visit since 1914.

IN PORTLAND

Mrs. Frank W. Turner is spending the week in Portland attending the Northwest Institute of International Relations. She went to the city Sunday.

HOME ON VISIT

Miss Evelyn Humphreys of San Francisco returned home Tuesday morning after spending a week with her father, T. J. Humphreys, and sister, Miss Leta Humphreys.

HOME FROM ROCHESTER

Mrs. James Valentine returned home Sunday night from Rochester, Minn., where she was a patient for several weeks at the Mayo institute. Mr. Valentine met her in Walla Walla.

A SON IS BORN

Charles Wendell is the name given their son born June 21 at Walla Walla to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cleveland. The young man weighed in at five and one-half pounds.



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