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REV. C. R. DELEPINE TALKS ON EUROPE

Hood River has no greater student of European affairs than Rev. C. R. Delepine, pastor of the First Baptist church. Mr. Delepine recently aroused keen interest among members of the Tuesday Lunch club with a brief outline of the situation in Old World politics. At the request of The Glacier he has given below a brief synopsis of his views of the European situation: Complicated as it may appear, the situation in Europe is yet more complicated than it appears.

A number of conflicting questions form eddies and whirlpools constantly changing with the ebb and flow of current events. Take the political question. We all know now that one of the great objects of the World War was the control of the Near East. To begin to establish land contact with the Near East, Austria attacked Serbia. When Bulgaria and Turkey took sides with the central power, Germany attained for a while her dream of all land communication, through middle Europe and the Near East.

A glance at the map of the Old World shows plainly that no powers can attain to the empire of the world apart from the control of the Near East. It is in the Near East that the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa. One may control the Near East and not be able to control the world, but one cannot rule the world without controlling the Near East.

The defeat of the central powers did not settle, it simply shifted the political question. England and France fought diplomatically for the control of the key to world power. While they fought Turkey revived, and as neither England nor France was willing to let the other control Armenia and the Trans-Caucasian republics, and as the senate of our country would not accept the mandate, the three republics along the Caucasus range, stretching from the Black to the Caspian seas, are now under the control of Soviet Russia. A glance at the map shows clearly that through her control of both sides of the Caucasus mountains, Russia has now the possession of the door to the Near East and has the key in her pocket.

Both Russia and Germany are ambitious of world power. Russia is the youngest of nations and never had really her fling. Russia has the natural wealth that Germany lacks and Germany has the technical skill so much needed by Russia.

The land communication with the Near East, through middle Europe, has been taken away from Germany by the late war, but a better one through Russia is here whenever the two countries can unite their power and their purpose.

To block this dread combination, the treaty of Versailles created a chain of states separating Russia from Germany, and the aim of the French policy has been to make this chain unbreakable. But if ever Russia and Germany can come together and invade the Near East, no one will be able to stop them. The stronger does France make herself on the Rhine, the more it becomes that the conflict will take place in the Near East. A Russia revived and prosperous, a Russia having military successes, and all the western nations, sinking under the weight of unpayable debts, may follow Russia's example and repudiate their obligations. Russia, which has certainly the gift of government, might certainly become the center of a United States of Europe.

Our own act of exclusion directed against all the Asiatic may have succeeded by that time in uniting Asia, and if so, we might be glad to throw ourselves into this white man's combination to face in the future the great impending conflict between the West and the East, the center of which would fatally be the Near East. But then comes the social question.

Russia is communistic, the very Germans who want alliance with Russia to fulfill their world dreams are capitalistic. The social tendencies can mix no better than water with oil. Therefore, socially, capitalistic Germany inclines toward western nations and away from Russia.

Then comes the industrial question. It centers in the Ruhr. Germany has the coal since the war. France has the iron. The interest of these two nations, industrially speaking, is to pull together. If they do so the Rhine provinces would become the greatest industrial center in the world. Natural wealth, population, technical skill of the highest order, power of organization, markets at the door, all is there.

The possibilities of this may well cause us uneasiness and it makes England to tremble. Thus, industrially speaking, there is a question which unites Germany and France, would unite them if they could trust each other, separate France from England, and leave Russia a great question mark.

Then we face the moral and spiritual questions. As far as observable all past civilizations fell with the decay of religious faith. This is fatal. The worst and falsest religions have this truth in them that they recognize an authority superior to man. This gives a basis for an authoritative standard of morality. It may be a poor one, but yet it gives a common ground of action. Let faith in religion go, down goes also the authority of the moral standard built on it, and with it down comes all authority, hence decay and the death of the type of civilization built on this particular standard.

Europe has the advantage of the Bible with its perfect moral standard of the 10 commandments. Europe never came up to it, nevertheless it had an authoritative standard. The rapidly decaying faith in the Bible is sapping in Europe, as well as here, the very foundation of a civilization which owes the best it has in it to the high standard of morality set forth in the Bible.

Thus to the confusion created by a number of conflicting questions must be added the terrible danger of a decay in faith in any authority. No one can tell where we are drifting. The greatest statesmen in Europe candidly announce their ignorance. They know, we know that we are drifting faster and faster, but no one knows where. The only ray of light helping us to discern the direction of the drift comes from some Biblical prophecies concerning the reaction of the human race when the message will have reached all the nations.

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TRAMWAY TO HOOD SUMMIT PROPOSED

E. M. Chandler, Tacoma, Wash., engineer, who conceived plans for the Waukena interstate bridge, proposes building an aerial tramway from some point on the Mount Hood Loop highway to the summit of Mount Hood. Mr. Chandler has already applied to the United States forest service for a permit to construct the tramway. He estimates that the cost of such a construction will reach a sum not to exceed \$200,000.

Fire Disturbs Church Picnic
 Members of the English Lutheran church, attending a picnic at the city automobile park Sunday, joined volunteer crews and helped to bring to control a brush fire that spread up from the O-W-R. & N. tracks. The fire threatened to destroy shrubbery of the park. Had it gained a headway it might have swept residences at the west edge of town.

Ellison-White Convention Held
 A delegation of local folk was present in Portland Tuesday for the annual Ellison-White convention. Representatives were present from 45 Washington and Oregon towns. It was the fifth convention of committees held by the chautauqua concern in the western United States this year.

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 THE FISHING SEASON IS ON. No need to kiss the wife and kids goodbye—climb aboard a train for some overcrowded fishing grounds, give the whole family a trip in a car—pack the tent—sleep where you stop—stop where you want—alongside some swirling pool where fighting trout will give you the taste of your life—where the kids can romp the hills and absorb the life-giving freshness of the woods. In other words, get acquainted with your family during your hours of play—the automobile will do it. "Ask the Envelope" will START YOU RIGHT.

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