

GERMANY SETS PACE IN GOOD FARMING.

Gives Striking Lesson to Americans in Matter of Efficiency.

A most interesting story, "The German Nation," in the September National Geographic Magazine, gives a striking lesson to the American farmer. It says in part:

Not since the hand of history first began to write the rise and fall of nations has there been a more wonderful story of a people's existence than that to be found in the annals of the Germans. The star of their destiny more than once has mounted to the zenith of European power, then has passed down to the western horizon, only to rise again, because of the extraordinary recuperative strength of the German race.

The Germany of today is a wonderful empire—whatever the book of fate may have in store for it tomorrow. Its people are so old in the history of western civilization that Julius Caesar, when he became governor of Gaul, encountered them to the east of the Rhine and bore testimony to their fighting spirit and their military prowess, yet its government is so young that the men still on the sunny side of fifty can remember when it came into being. The present German Empire was born out of the Franco-Prussian war, what its future shall be is now in process of determination.

The average American has read so much about the might of the German army, the prowess of the German navy, triumphs of the German factory and the commercial conquests of the German exporter that he finds it a surprise when he is told that Germany, territorially, is so much smaller than Texas that a slice as big as all New England could be cut out of the Lone Star state and what remained would be larger than the German Empire.

But if Germany be small in territorial extent, it has been powerful in population, strong in industrial resources and great in the technical achievements. Only Belgium, Netherlands, Japan and the United Kingdom among the nations of the earth have a denser population.

Only China, India, Russia and the United States have more numerous population. Only Great Britain is a greater buyer in the world's markets, and only the United States and Great Britain are greater sellers in those markets.

Although embracing only one-fiftieth of the area of Europe, Germany in 1912 produced one seventh of its wheat, a fifth of its oats, more than a seventh of its barley, more than a fourth of its rye and over a third of its potatoes. Its yields place it among the nations of Europe second only to Russia.

To what a remarkable extent the German farmer has mastered the science of agriculture is shown by a comparison of his per acre yield with our own. If we had grown as much wheat to the acre in 1913 as the Germans our crop would have been 2,500,000,000 bushels, instead of 750,000,000 bushels. If our farmers had grown as much oats to the acre as the German yield ours would have been 60 percent of the world's oat crop, instead of 25 per cent that it was. Had our barley harvest been as heavy per acre as that of the German farmer we would have had 375,000,000 bushels, instead of 178,000,000 bushels. If our potato growers had grown as many tubers to the acre as the German potato growers our yield would have been 865,000,000 bushels instead of 331,000,000.

Where the American farmer uses many acres and gets a small yield, the German farmer uses a very few acres and compels the ground to give him a large yield. There are approximately the same number of farmers in Germany as in the United States—5,750,000 in Germany and 5,737,000 in our country. The Germans have fewer than 700,000 farms that are larger than 25 acres in extent.

The German farmer is not like the American farmer when it comes to choosing the good land and allowing that which is not so good to lay idle. More than 50 per cent of the farm area of the United States is unimproved, while only 9 per cent of the available area of Germany lies unused. Germany's great agricultural productive capacity which shows a greater per acre yield of every staple crop than any other country in the world enjoys, has come from a mastery of the simple, yet complex, science of plant nutrition. We know that humanity requires three things for its existence—food, drink and raiment. The plant kingdom requires three things that man can give it for its growth—nitrogen, potash and phosphorus: The Germans have nearly all the actively worked potash deposits in the world, and recently they have discovered that instead of buying nitrogen and phosphoric acid from South America, they can get nitrogen from the air, from coke ovens and

from the gasification of peat and lignite.

A Repudiation of West.

Hillsboro Independent.

In their overwhelming vote for Dr. Withycombe for governor the people showed the same ability to go to the heart of a problem that they did in dealing with the measures on the ballot. Misrepresentation, ridicule and abuse of political enemies were ignored and the fact was kept in mind that the Republican candidate was a man whose ability, honesty and fitness for the position to which he had aspired had been proven by close contact with the people during almost a life residence.

The vote was almost an emphatic rebuke to Governor West, who forgetting and neglecting his high office engaged in a campaign in the interest of the man he had picked as his successor and in which his weapons were those of the ward politician.

The vote is also an absolute repudiation of West and Westism and proves that the people have had enough of both. The contest for governor was squarely on that issue and none other. The personality of Dr. Smith did not enter into the case at all. He was picked by West as his successor, all the governor's influence was exercised to secure his nomination in the primary and the executive neglected no means that would secure the election of his candidate.

But the people would have none of him. They well knew that a vote for Smith meant an indorsement of West and they buried Smith beneath an avalanche of votes.

And in burying Smith they buried West also, but it remains to be seen whether he will show the good sense to accept the verdict and remain buried. He may not, for past history tends to prove that he is not thin-skinned.

Press Call Halt on Fool Laws

Every session of the legislature sees a lot of fool laws enacted and a lot more dumped before they are voted upon. The citizens of all states dodge all freak and fanatical laws. There is no limit to the distance to which some of these law-inventors will go.—Mount Scott Herald.

The result of an election should point a moral for the prohibition people, the Out-to-Winners, the socialists and U'Renites, and to all others inclined to be led away from the organizations embodying the overwhelming majority of the calm and less emotional people of the state and nation.—Corvallis Gazette Times.

A subscriber to the Itemizer residing in Yaquina Bay "stopped his paper" because we stated that the proposition for the state to pension the unemployed was a vicious measure and advocated its defeat. Oh, well we will try and struggle along somehow, with the help of the 1499 we have left.—Dallas Itemizer.

Among those defeated were several good measures that would have been of real value to the state and a great assistance to the state officials in handling the business of the state, but they were lost among the rubbish that overloaded the ballot. The people are to be commended for their action in rebuking the gross abuse of the initiative law.—Lebanon Criterion.

As a matter of fact taxes are high; and so long as we continue in the Oregon system taxes will be high. If all the measures at Tuesday's election had carried there is no telling how high taxes would be for the coming year. We have too many useless commissions, freak laws etc., and the sooner the people rise in their power and demand the appeal of a multitude of them the sooner will taxes stop climbing.—Silverton Appeal.

The people of Oregon are learning not only to swat the flies with success, but also to swat freak legislation. All of which leads to a sane base and the state will take its place in the column of reliable and prosperous states.—The Brownsville Times.

There is not even a scrap of paper bearing any foreigner's signature recognizing the Monroe doctrine, but Uncle Sam has heretofore been able to force respect for it.

The Republic wonders why the Republicans did not blame the Democrats for the appearance of the foot and mouth diseases in Chicago. Because the Republicans are fair. There is nothing wrong with the Democrats' feet.

President Wilson's day of prayer for universal peace seems to have been ignored in the old country. In fact, the bulk of the prayers across the water are for more rather than less war.

State Press Flashlights.

One of the "trusty lieutenants" of Colonel Roosevelt has made a public announcement that under no circumstances will the Colonel be a candidate for president in 1916. Seems to us this has a familiar ring and that we have heard this before.—Umpqua Valley News.

Oregon game laws do not provide for the licensing of blind pig hunters, and the coming legislature should remedy this, for it is predicted that there will be an influx of blind pigs in this state after the first of January 1916, and it is well to be prepared in advance.—Umpqua Valley News

Dr. Withycombe will place much emphasis on rural development. Too many governors of the past have played too much politics and failed to look after the greatest problem of our state—that of bringing more acres under civilization and raising the standard of those already under cultivation.—Umpqua Valley News.

The greatest surprise of the election in Oregon was the majority for the dry amendment given by Multnomah County. Even the most optimistic Prohibitionist had not hoped for a majority in the metropolis. Now that every county in the state has voted dry, the question is settled for all time.—News Times.

When a man walks into our office, wipes his soaking shoes on our editorial carpet, doggishly shakes the moisture from his dripping coat over our editorial copy, bends over us and runs the water from the eaves of his watery hat down the back of our editorial neck and has the poor grace to remark: "Well Oregon went dry, didn't it," we feel devilish like kicking him out—and we would too, if he wasn't a subscriber.—Astorian.

U'Ren? U'Ren? There is something familiar about the name. Wasn't he his own candidate for governor, and wasn't he the chap that fathered a sly attempt to impose left hand single tax on the people and another attempt to abolish the state senate? Well, it does seem that if a fellow sticks to it long enough he will get what's coming to him, and last week's vote indicates that the people are doing a little abolishing of their own and U'Renism was included in the process.—Hillsboro Independent.

Summaries of Oregon election returns show that all of the 27 measures and amendments on the ballot affecting industries, taxation and investments have been defeated. The press of the state was almost unanimously against these proposed laws, condemning many of them as a radical and freak propositions and the result is defeat of a vicious system of legislation. For some of these measures campaigns were made and a great deal of money spent in advertising them, but the voters had made up their minds to check the system.—News Reporter.

Representatives of English merchants have taken all of the available hens' eggs in cold storage at Chicago and the same are being shipped to "old London town," to help supply the present great demand for food in that country, occasioned by the war. One very recent shipment of such a poultry product amounted to 5000 dozen, it being the first consignment in that respect. A few transactions of like character ought to cause renewed activity among the chicken raisers of this vast American republic, especially those in the Pacific Coast states.—Pacific Homestead.

According to the investigation of Dr. Henry A. Waters, president of the Kansas Agricultural College, the Philippine Islands are admirable adapted to the raising of beef. There are in the Philippines a million acres of good pasture and never has the grass been touched in a serious way. He estimates that two and a half acres of this land will maintain a bullock the year through. Labor is cheap. There are practically no good cattle in the Philippine Islands and it would be the work of a great many years to acclimatize breeding stock in sufficient numbers, but once they get them, the future in that country for beef production is assured.—Rural Spirit.

A big helping in the upbuilding of a town is for every one of its people to speak a good word for the community to visitors and strangers. It has a wonderful effect on the general public. It will not be long until these visitors will be repeating the encouraging words and forming a better impression on our town and its people. But we must keep making some progress in civic improvement in order to hold their faith and good will toward our community. Beaverton is surrounded by resources that will make her one of the best towns in

Washington County. What we want is to let the outsiders know it, and they will come in and help us develop these resources.—Beaverton Times.

Judge McGinn of Portland made the women mad by excluding them from the hearing of certain cases of immorality tried in his court. He charges that the base passions are at the foundation of such desires. He is probably right. At least it is base curiosity. We remember a salacious case brought down from Sheridan several years ago and tried in the Yamhill circuit court, which was held with open doors and brought out a large attendance of the fair sex, every one of whom ought to have been ashamed of herself of being present. The women in Portland are pleading that their presence is necessary as a protection to the young girls in the case. Judges and court officials are entitled to the confidence of the people that they will deal fairly with the accused.—Telephone Register.

State Wide prohibition will become effective January 1, 1916, because of the adoption of the prohibition measure by the voters by a majority of upwards 25,000. The majority is such that it leaves no question as to the people's attitude toward the saloon business. The fourteen months period gives the interests ample time to adjust themselves to the new conditions coming upon them and to enter other fields of business. Some of the individuals directly affected, may move out of the state but the greater portion will remain in Oregon. It is only fair to state that the money that is now spent for liquor will, after the saloons have been closed, be spent for necessities such as clothing and food; also books and other luxuries. The money that has been going east to pay for intoxicating liquors will be kept in this state, at least two-thirds of it. It will go into the savings banks or be spent with the retail merchants and domestic industries.—News Reporter.

The order of Elks is one of the broadest in its methods of charity of all the benevolent organizations in the world. It is first and foremost and most liberal when appeals for assistance for world wide disasters stir the hearts of a people. An instance of this is shown in the movement that has been inaugurated in the east and middle west, to equip and keep a unit of the Red Cross for one year in the war torn zone of Europe. A unit of this organization consists of three surgeons and twelve nurses, and the expense including transportation, amounts to about twentyfive thousand dollars, according to advices that have been received from the headquarters in Washington. It is a splendid tribute to the liberality and charity of this society, and shows its broad minded sympathy with human suffering, inasmuch as the order of Elks is distinctly American, and has no connection with any foreign society.—Umpqua Valley News.

Apparently, just at the present writing, Colonel Roosevelt is a man without a party. Can he remain such? Mr. Roosevelt at one time spoke in terms of characteristic contempt of the American who boasted no party affiliations. The Colonel had reference to the man who could find no virtue in any existing political cause. That may now be said of Mr. Roosevelt's identical position; but with the Colonel it is a matter of circumstances and not of choice. The fact is too patent that the forces which Colonel Roosevelt was to lead to the field of Armageddon have vanished. It might be almost true to say they have been dissipated into thin air. There is a fighting nucleus left in California; but in the person of the victories Governor Johnson there is plenty of leadership there, along with the rest. And in all that there is little cause to extend felicitations to the Colonel. It is equally amazing to think or to believe that the Colonel can remain supine and idle. It may be that he can never come back; but mighty few people there are who believe that he will not try. But in what way? By what coalition or combination? By virtue of what special appeal? These are the interesting questions, and time alone will answer them.—Telegram.

Col. Roosevelt would like to have his vignette used on some of the new hundred-dollar bills. Garfield, McKinley and Harrison were satisfied with smaller denominations. One individual who heard Miss Christabel Parkhurst lecture objects to her violation to neutrality. But a neutral Parkhurst would be a great disappointment to most people. The wolves in the forest of Galicia are not giving the troops as much trouble as those that have begun scratching at the doors of humble peasants in several countries involved in the war.

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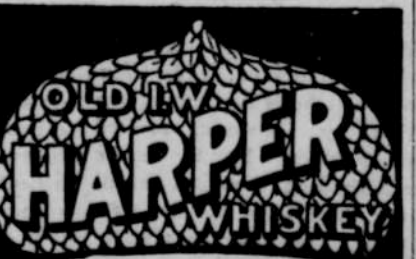
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