

### What the Editors Say.

This one-delivery-a-day business sounds all right and recalls the day when we did our own delivering and carried things home under our arms. But we must admit a pardonable curiosity as to who is going to get what we save by cutting out the delivery.—Independent.

It is a fitting and just fate for Nicholas Romanoff, (ex-Czar of Russia) that he should be sent to Siberia by the new government. For all the years of his life he has been placing his O. K. of the sentence to Siberia (a living death) for uncounted thousands of his subjects. If the government will immediately send several of his immediate subordinates with him, they will have done a good job.—News Reporter.

When the semi-official press of Berlin dares to deny explicitly that the Kaiser sent a note to Wilson through Gerard, asserting the violation of Belgium was a stratagical necessity, while our government has in its possession the note referred to, in the Kaiser's handwriting and with his signature, the American newspapers have published facsimiles of it, they give us proof of how completely the German public is fooled and kept in the dark by censorship.—Oregon Register.

The plan of the Tillamook County Court to have a motorcycle policeman who watch the pranks of auto speeders and arrest them for violating state traffic laws, is a line with what will have to be done throughout the state when the roads are paved, and as fast as the highways are put in passable condition the year round. Mounted police are already on duty on the Columbia and Pacific Highways. It is because of the numerous accidents due to careless motoring and to lack of attention to the mechanism of the machines that these motor cops are necessary. It is time to call a halt.—News Reporter.

You may have noticed that the state highway commission has awarded some road contracts by "force account." This means that the commission can require a paving concern to furnish all the material, equipment and labor for the paving of any certain road and accept a reasonable compensation on a percentage of profit based upon the actual cost of the materials, equipment and labor furnished. Attorney General Brown says such procedure is lawful, and if the commission has the power there should be no reason for unwarranted or unreasonable prices for state highway work. Of course the commission will have to determine what is reasonable profit.—Telephone Register.

Complaints come to The Sun from the Nestucca that parties have been dynamiting that river for fish, the perpetrators being outside parties and alleged to be residents of the vicinity near Sheridan. The people living on the Nestucca naturally resent such outrages but not having the evidence to convict are unable to proceed against the guilty ones. Reports of water blasting that are heard, followed by dead fish floating down the river indicate that the law is being violated but so far they have escaped punishment. It is probably up to the game warden to make a concealed camp there and have his labors rewarded by heavy fines and the lasting gratitude of the Nestucca citizens.—Sheridan Sun.

The News is of the opinion that if an American was caught in Germany and accused of being a spy, and the matter proven before a military board that he would pay the penalty with his life within 48 hours. One reason why this country is overrun with German ex-officers, admittedly spies in the employ of their native land, is because, when apprehended, they are treated as gentlemen, cared for at best hotels while enroute from point to point in charge of federal officers or soldiers, and then interned for the duration of the war. A few wholesome examples of this despicable class being executed at sun rise would stop much of the intrigue going on throughout the United States at present. Men who have lived in America for many years are engaged in this work for their home government. We are at war with Germany, and a spy should be shown no leniency. It is not a time for sentiment.—Umpqua Valley News.

The people, as a rule are hardly awake to the seriousness of this country being involved in the great war. Those at the helm of the government affairs say that exceedingly serious privations are sure to come to the people of this nation before we are through with the scrap. But people do not appear to realize it. The movement of troops are not permitted publication. Many war preparations are being feverishly hurried which the general public knows nothing about. The government is preparing to regulate food supply and prices of commodities. Steps are now being taken to establish hospitals where maimed soldiers may be provided with artificial arms and legs and taught means of making a livelihood after they return from the battlefield. Our people are asleep, locally, to the Red Cross work. We are told that some women, who are solicited to do sewing, reply: "Oh wait until cooler weather." And the great war goes on. There is a great awakening to come to a lot of people ere very long.—Itemizer.

Profaning Liberty. In spite of the high spirit of patriotism that has swept the country since the great war has been brought home to us, and despite the further fact that nearly every family in the nation has a relative who has either been called into the army or navy or is expecting to be called, there are still afloat some queer notions of na-

tional service. We are especially reminded of the fact that by an editorial article in a Montana paper, which comes to the Register. In this article appears the following paragraph:

"If we had our way, we would draft every convict in America of fighting strength and under 45 years of age, and give him a chance to redeem his life, and wipe out the past by fighting grandly or dying gloriously on foreign soil. We would force into service the thugs, the gunmen, the wretches of saloons, the loathsome the so-called cadets, the pickpockets, all the loathsome creatures of the great underworld of cities, both men and women. Now is the time to clean make them decent, abodes for good men and women."

In ancient years of conquest it was the custom of the despots by whom they were waged to release from the jails every convict, from purse-snatcher to murderer, who would agree to enter the army. This motley crew was driven into battle by its officers and every one that was killed was held to be good riddance.

#### Searching Inquiry Warranted.

It is encouraging to note that the district exemption board has been so thorough in its investigation of claimants for exemption for army duty that sufficient disclosures have been made to warrant a searching inquiry by the Federal grand jury. It is to be hoped that the Federal Government will mete out swift punishment to those conscripts and their relatives who have willfully distorted the truth in the effort to evade their duty to the flag.

Investigation made thus far by the district exemption board reveal that for the most part these fraudulent affidavits are being made by admitted pro-German sympathizers. The great mass of American people at a time like this are in no mood to tolerate such unpatriotic and un-American practices. If any community harbors men whose pro-German sympathies alone impel them to resort to perjury in an effort to escape the draft, it is well that the Federal Government should step in.

Federal investigation of these few pro-German slackers in Oregon will have a wholesome influence. A lasting example should be made of these. If this is done it is safe to assume that others will hesitate before making affidavits which investigation might show to be surcharged with perjury. The district exemption board deserves the commendation of the people of Oregon. It is carrying out the spirit as well as the letter of the selective conscription law.—Oregonian.

#### The Objector.

The story is told that the master of Balliol College, Oxford, was the other day publicly asked this interesting question: "If Jesus Christ was on earth today, was under 40 years old and not in holy orders, do you think he would be engaged in making German widows, or would he prefer to be in prison for holding conscientious objections?"

The answer from the master was as follows: "There are many historical incongruities which you can bring out by simply imagining this, that or the other thing—for instance, Julius Caesar at a telephone. Can you imagine any religious leader or any religious-minded man holding back if he saw things done to children for whom he was responsible, and not doing all he could to prevent them?"

What would be thought of the conscientious objector who saw his home invaded by an outlaw, his wife attacked, his children slain and his fireside despoiled and wrecked, and who stood weakly by and raised no hand to defend them or save his household?

Yet the conscientious objector asks the world not to resist when nations are ravaged, peoples impoverished, women driven into slavery, cities pillaged and ruined, and all civilization put on the rack of humanity's most wicked enemy.—Oregonian.

#### Why Discriminate?

Two things are essential to the prosecution of the war—money and supplies. For the first the government will depend upon loans and taxation; the second it will buy, and it is well known that it is buying at high prices. But one thing it is not buying is newspaper advertising, which is perhaps the most important of all, for without it the liberty loan which will pay the high prices for supplies would have been impossible.

The first Liberty loan was largely over-subscribed and this was because of the wide publicity given absolutely free by the newspapers, and this means all the newspapers, great and small. Country newspapers like the Independent printed column after column and every man, woman and child in the United States who could read knew all about the loan and its purpose. The newspapers were called upon to do their bit and they patriotically responded.

Now the second loan is being prepared and already there is evidence that the method that floated the first are to be followed, but advances by the managers are not being enthusiastically received by the publishers. Their patriotism has not lessened, but they cannot understand why the newspaper industry has been picked for exclusive sacrifice. Their space is for exclusive sacrifice. Their space is for exclusive sacrifice. Their space is for exclusive sacrifice.

Newspaper making is no picnic nowadays. The price of everything that enters into the making has doubled and quadrupled and business activity in other lines has not included

it, for many lines of advertising have been greatly reduced or eliminated because of war conditions. But the newspapers are not whining and they are still willing to do their bit. All they ask is this: Let the government go to the munition maker, the ship maker, the contractor who clothes and feeds the army and demand that they furnish free of their products the equivalent of what the newspapers are asked to give, and then it may come to the newspapers and ask them to sell the second liberty loan as they did the first, and they will do it cheerfully.

The meat that the soldier eats is a commodity and so is advertising space. Both represent all the dealers in the two lines have to sell. Why should it be taken for granted that one must be paid for and the other demanded as a gift?—Independent.

#### Kaiser Must Be Beaten.

German press comment and official utterances on the pope's peace overture emphasize the Spokesman-Review conviction that the world cannot have an endurable peace until Prussian militarism has been beaten to its knees, the bully thoroughly cowed. For an example of Prussian stubbornness and unbroken militaristic purpose, take the utterance of Count zu Reventlow, an authority who is known to interpret closely the views of the Prussian military machine. Germany, he declares, must have indemnities to relieve her of the awful burden of the war; guarantees for Belgian independence can not be given, and Germany must realize her dream of middle European empire.

More ominous yet, take the speech of General von Liebert, at Rathenow, Prussia, and the cheers with which it was received by his audience.

"We cannot sign a peace before we have the Flanders coast, a colonial empire and maritime basins. Should we not realize this now, we must prepare to work for it after the war in view of the next war."

The next war! Already high Prussian generals are taking that as their purpose in the event of their not getting everything they started out to get in August, 1914. And indemnities—vast indemnities must be paid if peace is to be negotiated now! Where, think you, would the Prussian eye go, if the powers should gather now around a conference board? Straight to the representatives of the United States. Who else could pay? Not Beggar Belgium. Not exhausted France. Not Russia, staggering under a war debt equal to a third to all its economic wealth. Great Britain and her colonies might be squeezed some, but the heavy exaction would fall on the United States.

A peace negotiation now would be a treacherous peace—a costly prologue to the "next war." The righteous struggle must go on, till the Prussian bully cries for peace, till the German people shake off the present conquering class, and a treaty can be negotiated that shall be a guarantee of enduring peace.—Spokesman Review.

#### Relief From Profiteering.

The government at last is getting definitely on the job of protecting consumers from exorbitant prices. The president has been given power by congress to control the price of war materials, foods and fuels, and he has declared his firm intention to use it.

Every good American must feel a sense of shame in the knowledge that such drastic measures are necessary. It seems strange that in a time of peril the public welfare and the success of the war should be threatened as they are by the deliberate imposition of "unconscionable prices."

In many respects our business world has shown rare unselfishness and patriotism. Thousands of our ablest business men in all lines of industry are giving their best services cheerfully to the nation. And yet while this personal service is so freely rendered nearly every branch of industry and commerce has been engaged in what, to the ordinary consumer, looks like a deliberate, piratical attempt to rob him at every turn.

Robbery of the government will be eliminated first of all. Considerable progress has already been made in that direction. A reasonable profit, and no more, is to be allowed in the purchase of all war supplies. Manufacturers are to be forced to sell to our allies at the same rates. Then comes the biggest problem—the protection of the American public from rapacious interests.

The government is wisely determined to insist that producers and dealers shall make no more profit out of private consumers than they make out of the government. This is a fair and necessary demand, which the government should proceed to enforce with all its power.

A starving nation cannot win the war. A nation obliged to spend its whole income for the necessities of life will have neither money for war loans nor spirit for fighting. This is a democratic war, a war of co-operation on equal terms for equal penalties. No class of citizens can be allowed to take advantage of the rest. A profiteer is no better than a traitor.—Umpqua Valley News.

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