

## WITH THE EDITORS Discuss Questions of Interest to People.

If that big drive on the western front keeps "hitting her up" until the May primaries the average candidate for public office will have to shoot his platform from one of those 76-mile guns in order to reach the ears of the voters.—Umpqua Valley News.

William Howard Taft set a good example a few days ago when he informed the leaders of his party that he would lend his assistance in the coming political campaign so long as it did not interfere in giving his hearty support to the present administration at Washington in its conduct of the war.—Newberg Enterprise.

The editor of the Itemizer has been in the newspaper business since 1897. We have been pleasing and displeasing the people ever since. We have been cussed and discussed, talked about, lied about, lied to, hung up and rubbed down. The only reason we are staying in the business now is to see what is going to happen next.—Itemizer.

Many persons have a high wage now. The reason for unprecedented wages is because the government is driven by war extremities and vicissitudes to pay high prices for everything it gets. It always will be the effect of war. But after the war, what? How much wage can you expect then with the boosting effect of war gone? Will it not be wise for you now through purchase of Thrift Stamps to lay aside something for the lesser wage of those leaner days ahead?—Telephone Register.

The danger of tying your own hands is shown in the case of the 6 per cent limitation law, and it is only right to the state that this danger was pointed out by the Independent and other newspapers when the law was under discussion. But the law was adopted and with Oregon facing the unavoidable expenses of war and increased expenses of maintaining state institutions it is not possible to increase state taxes more than 6 per cent above last year. A way out is now being sought, but even if it is successful the next step should be repeal of the limitation law, now that its danger is clear.—Independent.

If you will get the papers of 1864-5 you will see that the same old growl was raised about Lincoln and the administration that is being raised today against war measures. There is always a class of stay at homes, who know just how things should be run and know all about conducting a war—away from the front. The same stories of profiteering and steals, the shoddy contracts and poor food were told then as now, were true. The best way to get rid of all this is to take the thieves out and shoot them. They care not whether the boys in France suffer or not, if they can make their millions. Every day one reads of dividends declared up in the millions made by swindling the government and these transactions are as atrocious as to blow up a munition plant.—News Times.

Hopes of peace are seen in the great German offensive on the western front incongruous as it may seem. The Huns are hurling themselves against an impenetrable wall, it is felt, and it can only be a question of a short time when their own crazed impetuosity will be their undoing. If the allies can hold them in this drive for a time, no human power can sustain the losses which are being inflicted upon them and survive. A loss of 400,000 men in a few days, with no result except a few square miles of barren territory, will serve to at least bring the nation to its senses, if it does not serve to sober the fame-crazed emperor and his puppets. It seems reasonable to believe, therefore that peace on the allies' terms has not been so near for many months as now, even though men are dying like flies on the French battlefield. This appears to be the first, or almost the first, battle on the western front which had indications of having tremendous and permanent results. The battle of Verdun could have been won or lost without either side being vitally effected, but this battle which is raging now is of more consequence, at least to the Huns, because it is a final test of strength and endurance, and if they lose, they will almost be compelled to admit their ultimate defeat. These are some of the reasons why peace may be nearer than we suspect. Of course, peace will not come today or tomorrow; but if this battle is won, it will be brought nearer than by any other ten battles fought so far in the war.—Polk County Observer.

### The Kaiser's Desperate Gamble.

Viewing the battle broadly, the allied line holds. The British forces have given some ground, but it was sound generalship to yield terrain rather than suffer excessive loss of life. It would be wrong generalship to hold the line rigidly against an offensive of this magnitude, launched with the most terrific artillery fire ever followed by infantry assault formation.

If the line holds against this onslaught the net result will spell defeat for the Germans, for they will have failed of their real objective and will have paid a dreadful price in loss of life, in the shattered physical and moral strength of their armies, and in the ultimate disappointment that will sink into the minds and hearts of the German people.

We are to hold our hearts courageous, remembering that the Kaiser's legions were much nearer Paris three and a half years ago, and that French heroism held them then against heavier odds than the allied forces are facing now.

The thoughtful view taken in London, Paris and Washington, that the Kaiser and his general staff were driven by desperation to this desperate gamble, seems warranted by surveys taken from many angles.

As Premier Clemenceau, courageously says in his newspaper, "We are facing an enemy who wishes to end it as soon as possible. That suits us." Sooner or later the issue must be fought out on the western front, with dreadful sacrifices, and it is better that the Germans should hurl their men to heavy slaughter against our entrenchments than that we should bear the heavy losses that would attend a forced assault on the enemy's defenses.—Spokesman Review.

### Secret Enemies at Home.

The task of this country in the present war, would be greatly simplified and greatly reduced in its magnitude were all our country's enemies, in the German and Austrian armies, remarked John J. Cornwell, governor of West Virginia, the fact that there are hundreds of thousands, even millions, of enemies scattered all over the land, either conspiring to poison our soldiers or to poison public opinion that supports them; conspiring to dynamite industries making munitions and supplies for our army or to demoralize public opinion and destroy the morale of the people upon whom the men in our army and navy must rely for support—these facts and these activities mean not only a prolongation of the war and a larger loss of life, but it means tears otherwise unshed and sorrow otherwise unknown.

The forces of evil, of disorganization, of disloyalty and of enmity to America and its institutions are manifesting themselves in many ways. Many good people unconsciously fall victim to these sinister forces when they complain of slight inconveniences resulting from war conditions when they agitate, rail and criticize because their business is suspended for a few days or their profits are lessened by a few dollars; when they allow the spirit of selfishness and of greed to temporarily outweigh and over-balance the spirit of sacrifice and of service.

Greed and gain are not weapons with which we can win this war. They are the motives that inspire it, as manifested and illustrated when Germany undertakes to talk separate peace with Russia, wanting to absorb a large portion of that country and to dominate the rest. We can win the war only with sacrifices, sacrifices yet undreamed of; with service, service greater than we have anticipated. Above all, let us keep watch and guard in order that the enemy may not, by insidious propaganda, by falsehood, innuendos, and agitations, demoralize the people at home upon whose soldierly and patriotic co-operation the men in our army and navy are depending.—Umpqua Valley News.

### A Spinster Cheered "Her Boy."

She was a tall, comely middle aged woman, capable looking and good natured, the very type to make a splendid mother for half a dozen boys and girls, says the Philadelphia Record. But she and her sister had never married, consequently the other members of the Red Cross circle, knowing there were no young sons or nephews to serve their country, were surprised to hear her speak proudly several times of "my boy". Finally one woman asked for an explanation.

"To me," was the reply, "one of the most touching phases of all this war is the number of boys now enlisted who have absolutely no one, not even a distant relative, to care about their welfare. No one writing to them, no one praying for them, no one waiting with open arms to welcome them home. So I was glad when, on completing an entire knitting set, it was sent to one of these waifs. Attached was the regulation tag, bearing my name and address.

"Within a week my letter arrived. The writer proved to be a young Irishman, well educated, as the missive showed, and it was filled, not with requests for more gifts, but with gratitude and exuberant thanks for what had already been received. He addressed me several times as 'my lady' and 'my dear lady', while at the close he had modestly written the words, 'I like chocolate.'

### Germans Don't Like Air Raids.

Germany has no surplus of airships. The fact that aircraft must be needed for military purposes are being diverted for use in raiding English and French cities shows plainly that the government is trying to platinate the civil population at home by inflicting as much damage as possible on the enemy. Air raids were highly popular in Germany in the early days of the war when the raiding was all done by Germans. Since English and French airmen began energetically bombing industrial and military centers in Germany, a condition almost of panic has been created in many German towns. Practicing frightfulness is popular in Germany only so long as it is not visited on the heads of Germans themselves.

### Feeding 1,000,000 Soldiers.

To maintain the American army in France, 100 pounds of gross tonnage a day must be landed in French ports for each man, according to Captain Earl J. Zimmerman, executive officer in the depot quartermaster's department in Chicago.

"The American people have no conception of the quantity of supplies needed for the men 'over there,'" said Captain Zimmerman, "nor of the difficulty of getting it to them. For example, it takes 23,000,000 pounds of frozen beef each month to feed a million soldiers."

In explaining the food supply of the American soldiers abroad and the manner in which it must be sent, Captain Zimmerman gave a general picture of the difficulties of the quartermasters' corps in constantly maintaining a sufficient quantity of food.

According to his statement, the men in France are on a "garrison ration"—the same as soldiers at cantonments in this country. This ration is five pounds a man each day. This weight, however, includes eating utensils and container. For a million men, 150,000,000 pounds of ration a month are required, amounting to 4000 car loads.

A list of the food required for a million men for 30 days would include the following:

- Twenty-three million pounds of frozen beef.
- Thirty-seven million five hundred thousand pounds of flour.
- Six million pounds of bacon.
- Two million cans of beef.
- One million cans of corned beef.
- One million cans of corned beef hash.
- Three million pounds of sugar.
- Two million four hundred thousand pounds of coffee.
- Nine hundred and seventy-three thousand pounds of butter.

At all times, Captain Zimmerman said, a 30-day supply is maintained in France.

### The British Bull Dog Will Win.

The reason for the delay of Germany in dealing the gigantic blow at England can only be surmised, but it is not improbable that it was partly if not entirely owing to the high command's doubt of the morale of the German army. Much of it is weak. It had been proved before last Thursday that the Teutonic troops engaged in raids were war weary and disinclined to fight. It was probable that the main body of the German armies in the west would prove unequal to the moral strain of a prolonged offensive.

Emperor William, Hindenburg and Ludendorff must know, as military men, that the spirit of their troops and their quality in attack can not be the same in 1918 that they were in 1915. They should know, if acquainted with history, that the sole wars England has lost in nearly seven centuries are the war with Scotland in the 14 century, the war with France in the 15th century and the war with America in the 18th century. With the exception of the defeats inflicted by Joan of Arc, the only failures of the English in war have been caused by men who themselves were of English blood. By-and-large, the British are unbeatable.

Turning to more immediate considerations and practical proofs, what do we find? This: Not since the second battle of Ypres have the Germans until now attempted a big battle against the British. For their offensives against France they have nothing to show but costly failure at the Marne and at Verdun. When all odds were in favor of Germany in the west it failed to win. For a year past it has had to use storming troops, picked soldiers of exceptional courage and training, to make counter-attacks against the British. In a great offensive, however, Germany's chance of victory depends, not upon special bodies trained for assault, but upon ordinary divisional troops. Many of these are the wreckage of shattered divisions, first sent to Russia for rest and then drained of their best for renewed service in France or Belgium. The residue can not be first class soldiers. Now, a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. It follows that in an offensive on a great scale the strong divisions are handicapped by the tired or enfeebled divisions participating in massed attacks.

On the opposite side exists another factor which is sure in the end to stop the German assault. This is the temper of the entente armies and the repeatedly proven power of the English defense. The German command has learned much about this power, and knows that the British have enormously strong defensive systems, reaching a depth of 20 miles, to overwhelm which demands a terrible toll of men and munitions. But it does not know the present mood of the English army, for knowledge of the psychology or moral disposition of an opponent has always been wanting to the German. The British in Flanders and France have had a long rest from last year's terrific warfare and have awaited this onslaught with the surest and most eager confidence that they will shatter it eventually. Such an assurance makes every soldier of England equal to at least two men in fighting power.

There is not the slightest reason for anxiety as to the final outcome of this battle. The Germans were morally defeated before they came on. Again the British Bulldog will win.

### NOTICE.

All persons having an account with Grant Mills, kindly call at the City Recorder's office and settle same, with Kathleen Mills.

### SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE

### Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company

of Springfield, in the state of Massachusetts, on the 31st day of December, 1917, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the state of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Amount of capital stock paid up	.....	Purely mutual
Income	.....	
Total premium income	.....	\$ 14,619,930.96
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	.....	4,606,074.03
Income from other sources received during the year	.....	1,069,258.14
Total income	.....	\$ 20,295,263.13
Disbursements	.....	
Paid for losses, endowments, annuities and surrender values	.....	6,260,120.79
Dividends paid to policyholders during the year	.....	2,910,878.49
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	.....	2,274,866.52
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	.....	289,841.92
Amount of all other expenditures	.....	1,091,709.27
Total expenditures	.....	\$ 12,827,298.99
Assets	.....	
Market value of real estate owned	.....	1,107,375.15
Market value of stocks and bonds owned	.....	41,795,253.81
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	.....	37,587,200.57
Premium notes and policy loans	.....	15,899,422.95
Cash in banks and on hand	.....	865,820.43
Net uncollected and deferred premiums	.....	1,875,458.21
Other assets (net)	.....	1,638,048.71
Total assets	.....	\$100,768,579.83
Total assets admitted in Oregon	.....	\$100,768,579.83
Liabilities	.....	
Net reserve	.....	\$ 87,950,633.00
Total policy claims unpaid	.....	268,904.46
All other liabilities	.....	6,794,855.06
All other liabilities	.....	5,844,155.28
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of (purely mutual)	.....	\$100,768,579.83
Business in Oregon for the Year:	.....	
Total insurance written during the year	.....	747,320.00
Gross premiums received during the year	.....	204,381.66
Premiums returned during the year	.....	34,519.78
Losses paid during the year	.....	55,849.00
Losses incurred during the year	.....	54,849.00
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1917	.....	6,952,523.00

MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.  
By WHEELER H. HALL, Secretary,  
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