

WITH THE EDITORS

Discuss Questions of Interest to People.

Some silly bug who writes for the food conservation committee advises the people "to help themselves to the potatoes. Eat one more each day."—Willamina Times.

It is claimed now by the food administration leaders that congress made no provision for fixing the price of anything but wheat. If that is correct then it is high time that congress which organized the system in such shape as to permit of the great amount of profiteering get busy and change the law.—Capital Journal.

It is reported that the county court of Polk county will expend from \$7000 to \$10,000 on the road leading from Salt Creek to Tillamook county through Buell and over the Butler hill. When improved it is expected to cut of a considerable distance for all travelers from Salem to the coast. Much of the work will be done on the Butler hill and the grade greatly reduced.—Sheridan Sun.

This is no time for petty politics. The big fight is on over yonder. Our boys are meeting death in one form or another by the score. Soon it will be by the hundreds of thousands. The men who put in their time lambasting some other men for something that may not have met their approval at the time, when the men attacked are using their strength and talent and time to help Uncle Sam win the war at the present time, are getting down to pretty small business.—Itemizer.

The 50-50 rule on the sale of flour is all right. It is proper that persons buying white flour should be compelled to use an equal amount of other stuff. But here is what is not right: Just as soon as the new rule went into effect the profiteers raised the price of the substitutes a couple of times and now have made them cost times and now have made them cost equivalent of a full sack of flour costs very near nine dollars. The 50-50 rule may help the allies a little, but it helps the profiteers a whole lot more. But we will get this country organized after a while, let us hope, and handle that class of robbers as they should be handled.—Telephone Register.

It is very plain to be seen that Chas. N. McNary, alleged republican, and Ben Olcott, another alleged, are the two democratic candidates for United States Senator and Governor of Oregon, respectively, judging from the comments of the democratic press of the state. Some more camouflage work to seat a couple of demagogues at the expense of the republican voters of the state. As The News has said before they both need a good trimming at the primary election. The West-Olcott-McNary political machine has been working overtime in Oregon for the past two years. No true republican will support either Olcott or McNary for the offices to which they aspire.—Umpqua Valley News.

Every hamlet, every town and city, has its "war college" or rather a group of men who are wont to gather to discuss various phases of the war. As one listens to the arguments and the theories advanced at these gatherings he finds much of interest. Individuals who have scarcely been out of their home town philosophize on strategic army movements, give their impressions of general, and criticize or commend this move or that one, knowing little of the general lay of the terrain, scarcely knowing the geographical points they are talking about and still less of modern army tactics and movements as developed since the beginning of the war. The "War College" is an apparent evidence of a keen interest in the mighty struggle "to make the world safe for democracy."—News Reporter.

Non-Partisan League organizers are signing up hundreds of members a week in the state of Washington at \$16 per, and are whispering the information confidentially "that President Wilson is behind the League." To support this they are exhibiting copies of a letter from President Wilson to Congressman Baer expressing his sympathy with the purposes of the league. So far as we can learn this letter has not been published, although it may have been. Information is also circulated that the president has written direct to several organizers of the league commending their work and deprecating the assaults made on the loyalty of the league leaders. The organizers have no difficulty in overcoming the newspaper allegations that the league is disloyal. Their confidence that President Wilson is with the league is of the gleeful variety that indicates that the supposed presidential support assures the future of the league as the dominating factor in the political and economic reconstruction of the Pacific Northwest.—Oregon Voter.

This is the way the food administration sizes up the situation: "One lump of sugar in your coffee is patriotism, two lumps slackerism, three disloyalty, and four treason." Wonder what class the fellow is in who doesn't take any lump, asks an exchange.

Roosevelt's Speech a Chart.

Colonel Roosevelt's Maine address is wise, courageous and inspiring. It is charged with virile Americanism and abounds in truths. The American people, said Mr. Roosevelt, should gird themselves for a three years' war, the training of an army of 5,000,000 men, preferably through universal military training, and the rushing of the ship construction "by working night and day, three shifts in the 24 hours."

"If we do not speed up to aid our allies," he declared in conclusion, "some day we shall see our sons and our sons' sons fighting here at home without allies."

The American people could not find a better chart and compass in this hour of flame and tempest than this thoughtful address of its former president. He points the way to victory, and it is the only way. First there must be the spirit of sacrifice and the heroic purpose without which all expectation of victory should be futile.

Second, there must be wisdom and courage in every department of the government. We must take a lesson from past mistakes, we must turn the searchlights on the weak places and the failures, we must help the president and his administration with thoughtful, courageous constructive criticism.

Mr. Roosevelt well says that this is the people's war, not the president's war, not congress' war. The people, not the president and not congress, must supply the men to do the fighting and the resources to carry on the war. "There have been very grave faults and shortcomings and delays in governmental work," and the people must suffer for them, and the people must protest in order that they shall cease.

But these protests must be fair. Criticism must be intelligent and must avoid exaggeration. It is the truth the country wants—not concealment on one hand or exaggeration on the other, for exaggerations are not the truth.

Mr. Roosevelt speaks from the fullness of experience and with knowledge of existing facts. He hews to the line of truth. His statements regarding failures and delays and errors he has substantiated in every case. They are seldom denied, and when denied he comes back with convincing proof. His mannerisms may give offense, but the patriotism can not be successfully impugned, his motives discredited, nor his profound knowledge of conditions gain-said.—Spokesman Review.

Example of Patriotism.

If your conscience still sleeps and your soul is still unstirred by your country's need in this great world crisis—

If you are still a stranger to that sacred emotion of patriotism which animates and ennobles those who love their country better than themselves—

If you have been unable as yet to feel the hot blood of the patriot coursing through your veins, and the spirit of self-sacrifice for your flag stirring within you—

It will pay you well to consider the case of the nurse, Edith Cavell, and to learn to what sublime heights of nobility and service patriotism can elevate the human soul.

A frail little woman of calm and noble countenance stood at the edge of a newly dug grave. Facing her was a firing squad of soldiers of His Gracious and Christian Majesty, the German emperor. So slight was her stature that it seemed "a breath of wind would blow her away." And yet, so greatly did the life of this fragile atom of humanity endanger the safety of the German empire, and its boasted army of ten million men, that she had been condemned to die.

Her life had been devoted to relieving human suffering. In her nursing institution in Brussels she had cared for all comers. Germans included. She was not a spy. She was charged with assisting a few struggling soldiers of Britain and Belgium to reach the neutral soil of Holland. When arrested she frankly told her executioners that she had saved these men because she thought their lives would be of more value than her own in the great struggle of human liberty. She neither expected mercy or asked for it. There were no dramatics, no bravado, no excited or bitter denunciations or defiance of her enemies. Patiently and uncomplainingly she awaited the hour when she could offer the "last full measure of devotion" to her country.

When the hour came it found the gentle breast and the kindly heart, so soon to be pierced and torn by the leaden messengers of German hate, calm and unagitated. With sublime heroism and with the sweet natural dignity of true womanhood she faced her executioners and sank into her grave a martyr of human liberty whose memory history will enshrine in the hearts of true patriots for all time.

She was denied the comforts of her own clergy but the prison chaplain reported that she was courageous to the end saying, "I am glad to die for my country."

How dies this sense of patriotic duty compare with yours? Are you doing your part? If not, will you not permit the example of this glorious little patriot to make the patriy war sacrifices now so urgently asked and so justly due from all Americans in civil life?

Kissing the Flag.

D. E. Yoran told the students of one of the Eugene schools a few days ago that compelling the pro-Germans to kiss the American flag is nothing less than a shameful desecration, and we are inclined to think that we have heard no saner or more truly patriotic utterance than this in the whole discussion of pro-Germanism, says the Eugene Register. The mob that compels a kaiser-worshiper to touch his blasphemous lips to the Stars and Stripes is profaning the national emblem. To our mind, the kiss of Judas was the greatest insult offered to Christ.

The American flag is the emblem of liberty for the common man and of equality of opportunity for all. Thousands upon thousands of brave men have died cheerfully for what the flag stands for, and thousands more will yet die in the same cause. It is universally recognized that wherever the American flag flies there will be found freedom and justice and guarantee of the rights of every individual. The men who are following the flag in France today are fighting for an ideal that is so high and so pure that the warped and shrivelled intellects of the rulers of the central empires cannot even begin to grasp it.

The pro-German in America is an upholder of the cult that might makes right. He believes in the divine right of degenerate kings to do as they please with the lives and the property of their subjects. He is an admirer of the oppression and all the butchery and all the foul crimes of lust that have been done in the name of Germany. He believes implicitly that all men are not created free and equal and that it is the inalienable right of the few to tyrannize over the many.

Shall we permit such a man to touch his lips to the American flag—let alone compelling him to? With Mr. Yoran, we say no.—Umpqua Valley News.

Exposing the Retail Profiteer.

On purchasing a bottle of glue, for which he had to pay 15 cents, a customer in one of the hardware stores in Brooklyn asked the reason for the advance of 5 cents. The retailer said "the war" had raised everything and these same bottles of glue, which he used to sell for 10 cents, cost him 10 cents per bottle now.

When the customer opened the carton containing the bottle he found a slip of paper neatly wrapped around it bearing the following: "To the consumer: Owing to the high price of tin and owing to the government demand for the metal, we have discontinued placing on our glue bottles the metal cap which could be used after the cork was withdrawn. We are forced to this so that the purchaser may get the same size, quantity and quality without any advance in price."

Women Mail Carriers.

The opportunities that opening to women are steadily widening, and the latest addition to this list is the rural mail carrier's job. The postoffice department has harkened to the call for wider employment of women, and it is announced that the first examination for positions as rural mail carriers to which women will be eligible will be held next month. These examinations will be held in all sections where vacancies are scheduled to occur and when men carriers are unobtainable.

This is the first time since 1911 that women have been eligible for such posts, except in rare cases as substitutes. Previous to that time the service was opened to them for a short time, but while their work was satisfactory climatic conditions in the Northwest were such as to make it inadvisable to use them generally, and the privilege of examination was denied them.

New Army Officers.

Congress has learned that there are 62,000 staff officers and fewer, rather than more, line officers—more non-combatant lieutenants, captains and majors than fighting officers. The work they do it may be necessary to have done. But is it necessary to swell the commissioned rank of the army absurdly to get it done? The law prohibits, under heavy penalties, the wearing of the uniform by one entitled to it. A lot of government employes in Washington are wearing it only because of a fiction that they are entitled to it.

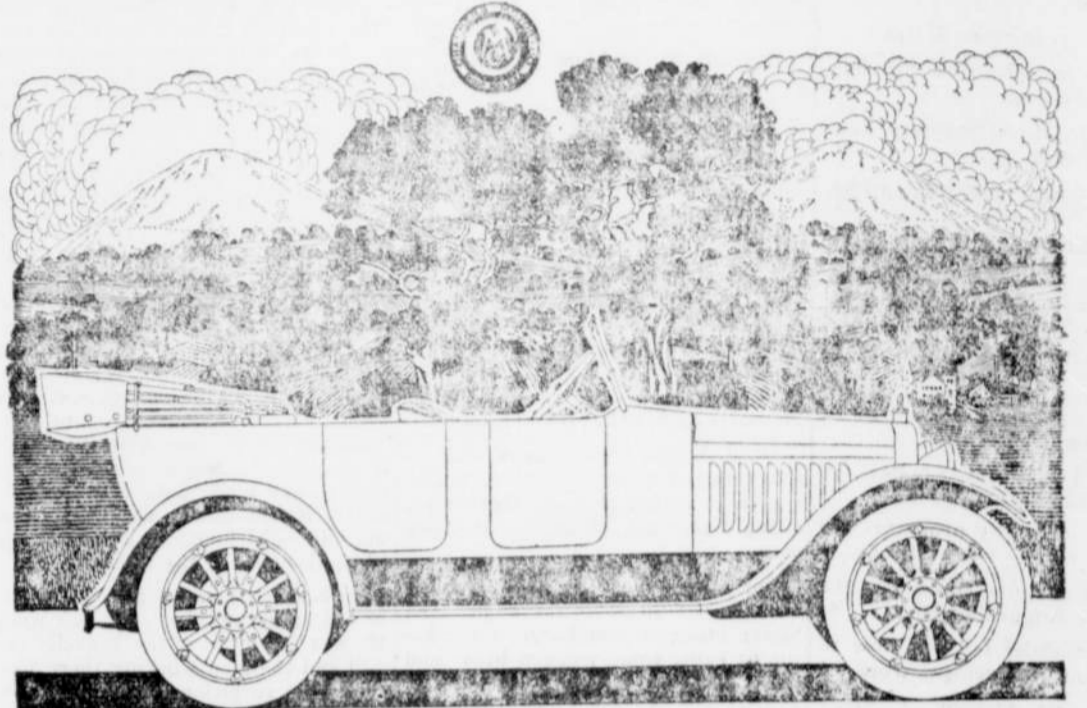
The worst phase of the matter is that many of these titular army officers are draft dodgers. They are of draft age, and have escaped by rushing to Washington and getting commissions—by "pull." Their work could be done just as well by men above or below the draft age, or by women.

Manifestly the solution of the problem of what to do with the surplus of noncombatant officers is not to order them to France. Pershing does not want them. A way should be found to dig them out at Washington and put them in the national army training camps.

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The Sugar Hogs.

Watch the sugar hog in the dairy lunch or at the restaurant where an ample supply is within the reach. One of our readers reports seeing a specimen of this particular kind of selfish human load six spoonfuls of sweetening into his cup of coffee, with a sign

"Help save the sugar" staring him in the face.

If the individual customer will not cooperate in saving sugar, then it is up to the dairy lunch rooms to measure out his supply for him. This may require a little trouble, but it ought to be done. Two spoonfuls is a good limit for any man in his coffee under existing conditions, and the man who will not deny himself for the people of Belgium and France and the boys

in the trenches must be put on rations. Meantime, if you run into a sugar hog when getting your noonday bite, take it upon yourself to rebuke him. It is your patriotic duty. Let these fellow know that there is a public opinion in Chicago which will not tolerate patiently such indifference to the government's request and to the needs of our allies and our own brave soldiers.