

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY.

Now that the government has taken over the telephone lines it will probably compel idle gossipers to indulge in "work or fight" conversation.—Umpqua Valley News.

If the government sees the need of saving paper, it should start in Washington, where more than twenty publicity bureaus, attempting to put out material intended for small papers, is spoiling several tons of perfectly good print each day to make fodder for the waste basket in country print shops.—Telephone Register.

We must feed 120,000,000 allies and our own big army at the front. Food must go across the waters and we must make it possible for that food to go. We can save in many ingenious ways, besides denying ourselves the foods most needed overseas. Let us save till it hurts, and be glad of the chance to suffer a little inconvenience for the sake of those who are giving their lives.—Itemizer.

With five escapes from the state penitentiary last week Governor Vithycombe very naturally reaches the conclusion that there is no "honor among thieves" and the honor system is a failure, and he says it will be abandoned. Incidentally the same conclusion was reached long ago by those whose business have brought them in contact with the criminal class and whose observations have caused the diagnosis that in the majority of cases crime is a disease, and that while treatment of disease varies according to the patient there can be no greater folly than to adopt one cure all and apply it to all alike.—Independent.

The county press is sharpening its meat ax and getting in readiness to swat C. S. Jackson's initiative bills which are the only ones which will be on the ballot this year. The boys are already taking cracks at the Portland publisher, and some of the things they are saying are to say the least unkind. However, it is well to remember that scolding seldom wins out, and if anything counts in defeating these bills it will be sound argument. So far as both bills are concerned, both are as full of holes as a callender, and less scolding and more calling attention to the holes may do the trick, even if it doesn't relieve the feeling of the newspaper boys.—Independent.

If the administration wants to save paper why wouldn't it be a good scheme to suspend the franking privilege each member of congress has and which is abused to beat the band while loading up the mails in transportation. A congressman will get permission to print a speech in the congressional record. He then has thousands of copies of it printed free to him of course, and sent through the mails on his frank. He never delivers these speeches, but leads his constituency to think he has made a great spread-eagle effort. In contrast to this is the new order that exchange of papers be discontinued, unless checks are exchanged between publishers, which in no way saves paper. How fertile are the fields of reform!—Telephone Register.

Two elements appear to dictate to the county courts and officials of municipalities the maintaining of mounted police to enforce the traffic laws—danger and road deterioration. The latter is the main motive, for where macadam or gravel roads are the main traveled highways, the fast moving automobile acts as a vacuum cleaner and sucks the rock particles out of the road as the wheels revolve at a tremendous speed forming depressions and ruts on the surface of the road. However, the work of the highway police to be efficient must have something beyond mere application of fines upon violators of the traffic laws. "To jump in to fine automobile drivers just to get money will accomplish nothing for just as soon as the cop is removed the speeders will get busy again." remarks the News-Times.

Some dissatisfaction has been caused by the latest orders concerning the consumption of sugar, but the discontented must remember that the Food Administration is not to blame. They should direct their criticism at the German junkers and not at the administration. The shortage of sugar has been largely caused by the U-boats. There is plenty of sugar in the world but the lack of shipping and the sinking of sugar cargoes have caused all the trouble. Then it should be remembered that while the government is asking individuals to use 25 per cent less for the next six months, they are still allowed double the amount our allies receive. It is a small sacrifice that has been asked the people, and there is no doubt it will be complied with, although there will be some grumblers. It may be before the six months has expired enough submarines will be destroyed to make the navigation of the sea safe enough to secure sugar from the more distant sources of supply. Meanwhile let the grumbler think of the boys who are giving all for their country, who are enduring cheerfully the sum of all hardships and danger, and then look at himself in the mirror when he complains of being

deprived of the second spoonful for his coffee. One look should be enough.—Itemizer.

Taxing Automobiles and Gasoline.

The proposed tax of 2 cents a gallon on gasoline production, agreed to last week by the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, would in reality fall upon the consumer instead of the producers, for the producers would immediately add it to the price of the product.

This proposed war tax on gasoline is both meritorious and unmeritorious. In so far as it applies to pleasure riding it is meritorious. In so far as it taxes business and industry it is objectionable.

In an amazing and revolutionizing way the automobile is performing industrial service formerly rendered by the horse. It is the farmer's errand runner, the machinist's delivery assistant, the physician's carrier on his daily rounds, the contractors inspecting agency. A tax on gasoline consumed in such ways would be comparable to a tax on oats or hay.

If there were a clear line of demarcation between the consumption of gasoline in pleasure riding and its use in industry and commerce the tax problem would be easy. But the two uses blend into each other. A farmer fills his tank in the morning, runs to town in the forenoon to buy supplies or have a broken machinery part repaired, scurries over the country in the afternoon in search of harvest hands, and in the evening takes the family out for a pleasure run.

So the ways and means committee, realizing that not even a Solomon could find a feasible dividing line, has decided to lay on a blanket tax that will reach all gasoline, whether burned in a tractor or consumed in joy riding.

Extends Age Limit.

The War Department comes before Congress with its proposal to extend the draft age limit to include all men from 18 to 45 years old.

This means that all the active man power of our country will be mobilized quickly to put an end to the war.

In making war, speed is the main factor. The more speed with which we train and mobilize our men power and transport our masses of soldiery to the battle front, the quicker the war will be won and ended.

For a time it looked as though our pacifist secretary of war would diddle-daddle along on the instalment plan of taking men. But all must admit that whenever Secretary Baker is finally convinced of the necessity of proceeding in a big way he has the faculty of getting quick action. Now that he has been converted to the idea of assembling the total man power of fighting age, he will undoubtedly get the fit men out of unessential occupations and into training at an early date.

The speed with which our War Department works will be the big feature in bringing the war to a righteous conclusion without unnecessary sacrifice of precious life. Our shipping program, our airplane program and our munitions program will all have to be enlarged to match the increased man power, but it will be done and can be done by the capable men who are in charge of the activities.

More heart will be put into the nation by the extension of the age limit and the speedy calling of these men into service than anything that has happened since the original conscription.

To me between 40 and 45, this conscription will be a source of intense satisfaction. Each will feel that he will be registered, listed and classified. It is for his country's interests that he be left in his present occupation he will be left there. If he is more needed as a soldier, he will be called to the colors. His destiny is taken out of his own hands.

Many men of 40 and 45 have felt the burden heavily, the burden of indecision as to what to do. They have felt the duty towards wife and children should restrain them from trying to enlist unless they were needed. They have also felt that they had no right to enlist in spite of family claims unless they were called. Our government has solved this problem for them. If they are called to military service they will tear themselves away from families and go cheerfully knowing that they are doing their duty. If they are not called, they can remain with their families, and in their occupations knowing that the government prefers to leave them there rather than take them as soldiers.

It will be a happy lot of men, those of 40 to 45 especially, who will go to register on the appointed day. They will feel that by the act of registration they have placed their fate in the hands of their country's service, no matter what the call may be.

Doubtless the single men who are fit will be called first. Then will come the married men without children. After that the married men with children. The more men there are called and trained, the quicker the war will be ended. Better call them all at the earliest possible moment and end the war that much sooner than to refrain from calling them and thereby delay victory and have to call them anyway when the price of blood that must be paid is far higher than if they had been called early.

Due regard will be had to the re-

quirements of war industry. Only industry essential to the war and the health and morale of the people can be continued if the man power is drained for soldiers as rapidly as it should be. Other industry must be suspended.

Just what industry is essential to be continued and what is not needed will be a hard line to draw so far as some industries are concerned. Take the publishing business, for instance. It is typical of many.

The magazine, periodical, trade and newspaper press of the country are great factors in war work. They educate the public and also educate business to what has to be done to win the war. Conscription, the liberty loans, the Red Cross and other war work is carried on because the press sets forth what is needed and sets it forth so clearly that the country responds. Business is educated as to what essential or non-essential by what is promulgated in the trade and news press. Undoubtedly the publishing business as a whole may be regarded as essential to the conduct of the war.

Yet may not the publishing business be cut down without sacrificing efficiency? Steps in that direction have been taken so far as the great daily papers are concerned by direct reduction in size. This end is reached by reducing the supply of paper to a less amount than was used during the 6-months period ending July 31 of this year. This is a step in the right direction and will accomplish much.

But cannot there be some consolidation? Is there not a great duplication of journals, periodicals and magazines of all classes? Doubtless much can be worked out toward this end, and by working it out much man power may be released for military or more essential industrial purposes.

We cite the publishing business merely as an example of many.

The retail store business is another line in which man power may be saved by consolidation. Two stores can serve a small community with as great efficiency as can four, and save man power thereby. The same applies to the wholesale business.

Much can be thought out upon this line. Undoubtedly the War Industries Board or other national authority will do some of this thinking. Many matters affecting our daily life may be ordered differently. If the result releases man power it is well that a new order be established for the war.—Oregon Voter.

The Call For Nurses.

An urgent call has been issued for more nurses, not only for war service but to take the place of those who go to the front. It is planned to establish what will be known as the United States Student Nurse Reserve, to be composed of young women who are ready to volunteer for training in the work of nursing. The government asks for 25,000 volunteers of this class, of which Polk county is expected to furnish ten.

Here is a golden opportunity for young women who possess the necessary qualifications for this kind of service and who are fired by a patriotic ambition to "do their bit" for their country. The American women—God bless them!—are doing their duty nobly in various kinds of war work, but only a comparative few will have the opportunity to engage in the self-sacrificing and highly important service of nursing, a service that is as essential and as important as that rendered by the soldiers themselves. What is wanted is young women who are intelligent and responsible, with the further requirement of good education and good health, and the very fact that a girl can meet these specifications will be a mark of lasting credit, aside from whatever service she renders. To be enrolled in the student nurse reserve, in fact, will be both a distinction and an honor, and in all likelihood so many applicants will seek this honor that it will be necessary to make selections from the best qualified and most promising of those who will join the honor list.

The plan provides for an optional choice by applicants, between actual war service and service at home, or the applicant can leave it to the federal authorities to designate her field of labor, after she has received the necessary training and is qualified to take up the work of nursing. That fighting disease at home is quite as important as war service itself is readily apparent, and the nurses who stay in the home field will be doing their "bit" just as truly as those sent to care for sick and wounded soldiers. The romance and adventure of the latter work will appeal to many, but it will be no less a work of real patriotism to give service in the field of home nursing. And while a girl can give patriotic service in many other ways and directions, the girl who takes up nursing as a patriotic duty unquestionably will enjoy distinction that will be the envy of others who, for various reasons, may be unable to get into this particular line of war work.—Observer.

Ask Anyone Who has Used It.

There are families who always aim to keep a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy in the house for use in case it is needed, and find that it is not only a good investment but saves them no end of suffering. As to its reliability, ask anyone who has used it. For sale by Lamar's Drug Store.—Paid Adv.

Strenuous Time for Newspapers.

Newspapers managers have been notified that they must stop sending out free exchanges as a means of saving print paper. This is one of the biggest pieces of bunk that has been thrust upon the most valuable industry in the country for the carrying on of the war.

What would the government have done if the papers would have refused to donate free hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of space during the bond drives, Y. M. C. A., K. of C. drives, Red Cross drives, which has cost the department nothing? Whatever advertising that was paid for was through the patriotism of individuals. The government would have fallen flat if it had not been for the press.

Yet tons of paper is sent through the mails free to newspapers which they are expected to print free and for doing this they have the postage raised on them.

The greater part of this literature sent the papers is absolutely worthless to the people at large, as most of it comes through the press dispatches and the publishers get it ahead of the numerous letters.

If the government would use a little conservation along the line of print paper, they would not have to be asking these same papers that have done so much for the war to cut off a source of information that cannot be secured any other way. What difference does it make whether they exchange free or whether they say you send me a check for my paper and I will send you a check for yours.

There may be consistency in this order but we fail to see it.—Benton County Courier.

And to add to the above assumed authority the war industries board has prepared drastic economy measures prohibiting the establishment of any new newspaper during the war, and requiring a reduction from 5 to 50 per cent in reading matter in weekly newspapers already established and from 10 to 60 per cent reduction of reading matter in daily papers.—Sheridan Sun.

'Un-Made in Germany.'

The blatant claim is often made, with brazen arrogance, that German wisdom and research have made the world advance; but when we start to itemize the things of greatest worth, that benefit and comfort bring to people of the earth, we do not find them emanating from Teutonic brains.

Although the Hun will utilize whatever another gains. The telegraph, the telephone, the engine run by steam; Acetylene and kerosene, electric lights that gleam; The ocean cable, the wireless, and even the phonograph;— The motion picture, and, in fact, the common photograph;— All these would still be hidden from the races of mankind if their disclosure had depended on the German mind.

The telescope, the microscope, the antiseptic gauze; The anaesthetic for relief of pain from any cause; The principle of vaccination to prevent disease; The decimal and metric systems which we use with ease;— All these were given to the world by nations now at war Against Teutonic doctrines, which we heartily adore.

Our aniline for dyeing, and our rubber vulcanized; Our automobiles and pianos, both so highly prized; Electric cars and air-brakes, and the soft pneumatic tire; The plate glass in our windows, and our fences of barbed wire;— All these were ne'er discovered in the land of braggart Hun, Although they try to fool us as to what they've really done.

Machines for reaping harvests and machines for threshing grain; The cotton-gin, the submarine, the bird-like aeroplane; Machines for sewing clothes, and machines to count our cash; Machines to write our letters, all so neatly, in a flash; These also might have never come to bless the human race if other folks had waited for the Hun to set the pace.

Even implement of warfare are not born of Prussian hands, But they employ inventions that have come from other lands;— Percussion caps, torpedoes, smokeless powder, dynamite, And nitroglycerine or sharpnel, all so deadly in a fight; The rifle or revolver, or the quick breach-loading gun, While widely used, were none of them invented by a Hun.

The Germans are mechanics, and are skillful in that line; They copy work of someone else, and often do it fine;— But when it comes to doing things that never had been done, They simply are not in it, and no laurels have they won; They talk of German "kultur", and they boast and strut about, But yet their big achievements are the pretzels, beer and kraut. —LeRoy Huron Kesley.

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