

What the Editors Say

Here's hoping the new year will see a paved highway from McMinnville to Portland and from here to the coast. Certain portions of this highway should be completed the coming year anyway.—News Reporter.

With eggs bringing nearly 70c. a dozen at the stores, and butter above 75c. per pound, it is easy to see who will soon be our multi-millionaires. It must be the Democratic administration fosters wealth.—Willamina Times.

More than ten thousand Americans soldiers have married French wives, it is said. Whether the boys will bring the French lassies home with them or the girls will keep the boys in France, doesn't appear yet. Many men are needed in France. Probably most of them will remain there.—Telephone Register.

It cost a lot of money to send our boys to France. It will cost just as much to bring them back. Uncle Sam is spending money by the millions on the job he undertook. The fight is over, but the "hall rent" is not all paid. Another Liberty (or Victory) loan is coming up soon after the first of the year. Better start preparing. We have got to see the whole thing through. While the fighting is all finished, the job is not yet completed.—Itemizer.

The Irish are to ask the President to work for self-determination of Ireland at the peace conference, and if it could be made to apply only to those Irishmen who had the courage to fight for the right in the great war, and not to those who spent their time in resisting conscription and in philandering with the Hun, we have no doubt that Mr. Wilson would be glad to act.—Eugene Register.

A Corning, California girl advertising for a position in the Tillamook Headlight says: "A strong healthy country girl wishes permanent employment on a large ranch. Can plow, milk cows and do anything out doors and wear overalls." That girl should not be required to look long for employment when hundreds of bachelors who shy at the high heeled girls with a low cut dress are searching for a wife not afraid to work.—Sun.

Already a number of people who went from this section to Portland and other places to work in the ship yards have commenced coming back and more will follow shortly. A lot of them won't be anything ahead for the move. Wages were high, but so were living expenses, and, since the war ended unexpectedly, the job isn't lasting as long as anticipated. Those who had reasonable good jobs here would have been wisest to have remained with them.—Itemizer.

Henry Ford is going to give up the management of the Ford motor plant and begin the publication of a national weekly newspaper. Well, if Ford embarks in the newspaper business, it is very fortunate for him that he made his fortune first. He won't need to die a rich man if he sticks to the game long enough. And it may be that he is looking ahead, for the Bible tells of the difficulty of a rich man entering the kingdom of heaven.—Observer.

If anyone wonders why the political complexion of the senate was changed in the midst of the greatest war the world has ever known the answer is found in the report of the National Security League, which, by the way, is non-partisan, and which concerned itself with records of votes and not politics. This record shows that on what are now considered the main war measures but 16 per cent of the Democratic senators voted right every time while on the same measures the record shows that 57 per cent of the Republican senators voted right every time. With 50 Democratic and 39 Republican Senators the proportion voting right was 66 per cent of the Democrats and 81 per cent of the Republicans. Which goes to show that the voters had a very correct line on the situation after all.—Hillsboro Independent.

Why not settle the war of words over the issue of cigarettes by soldiers by leaving it to the soldiers themselves? The literature of the war appears to be practically unanimous in showing that most soldiers smoke cigarettes, and the consumption seems to be only limited by the available supply. So why not let it go at that? It is of course probable that the American habit of deciding a question to suit ourselves and then attempting to force others to do as we think best will prevail, but when a man gives up about everything else and goes across the seas to fight our battles it would seem that he might decide for himself whether he desires to add what opponents of the cigarette declare is a danger to health to other unhealthy things he must encounter. It might be added parenthetically that the writer does not smoke cigarettes.—Independent.

Too many young boys of tender age in McMinnville are permitted to carry revolvers. This fact was noticeable on Nov 11, when everybody was jubilating over the military victory. Parents in this town are concerned

whether the young boys are sold pistols, or whether they associate with boys permitted to carry them. There is a state statute making it a misdemeanor for dealers to sell guns to minors. A dealer at Salem was recently fined by the justice of the peace \$5 for such an act, when some citizens were laboring under the impression there was no such law. When a child is killed by careless and immature judgment in the use of fire arms it is too late to mend the damage, and all we can do is to regret, which gets us no where. Let's guard the young. They are in our charge.—Telephone Register.

No matter how it turns out, President Wilson could have saved much wear and tear on the nervous system of the world had he made clear before he sailed for Europe just what he proposed to do and defined the exact meaning of his peace terms, and especially that relating to the freedom of the seas. Utterances of both English and French statesmen and newspapers betray their anxiety as to what the president has in mind and they are losing no time in making their own intentions plain. It may be the worry on both sides of the Atlantic is without cause, but why should there have been cause for worry? The war was won by the American people they are entitled to a voice in the settlement, and there is thus early unmistakable evidence that there will be no settlement which they do not approve. The president may give his terms, but unless they are ratified by the people they amount to nothing, and this being so it is hard to find a good reason why they should not have been told in advance just what the president considers so important that he insisted upon laying personally upon the peace table. Such a course might have saved possible later complications.—Independent.

High Cost of Living and High Wages.

Elbert H. Gray, chairman of a special committee of the American Iron and Steel Institute, gives wise counsel when he urges employers not to attempt to reduce wage scales at present. He sees that while labor is receiving higher compensation than ever before, wages are no higher than are "proper and just" in view of the cost of living. He predicts that if business will be fair to its employees, its customers and its competitors, the next five years "will be the most progressive, prosperous and successful in our history."

On the other hand labor should adjust itself to the fact that continuance of present high wages must mean a continuance of the present high cost of living, for, as Judge Gary says, "labor constitutes the greater cost of production from the raw material down to the finished product and its use by the consumer."

Take wheat for an example. It costs the farmer more to produce breadstuff and high labor is the overwhelming factor in that increased cost of production. It touches the producer at every angle—in the higher wages he pays directly, in high cost of seed, of farm animals and their feeding, of machinery, of gasoline, of harvesting and threshing charges, of delivery to the railroad, of transportation to the mills and from the mills to the consumer.

Beyond all that the farmer must pay higher prices for everything bought for his family's consumption. He must have a greater profit to live as well as he and his family lived before on a smaller profit for his dollar has shrunk in purchasing power exactly as the workman's dollar has shrunk.

What is true of wheat is equally true of meats, dairy products, vegetables, fruits, metals, fuel, wool, leather and every other commodity. Increased wages have gone into production at every stage of a commodity.

If wages stay up the high cost of living cannot come down. If the high cost of living stays up, wages can not fall. Any attempt to ignore or disregard that economic fact will be mischievous and demoralizing.—Spokesman Review.

A Bloodless Trafalgar and Its Meaning.

The British navy and the German navy met on the high seas at last, but it was after the war and without fighting, and the Briton and the American together could have said: "We have met the enemy and they are ours!" The meeting of the two armadas, although it was not a raging tragedy of the ocean, nevertheless had grandeur and struck the note of grand drama. The surrender of the German fleets marked the downfall of Germany as a naval power, put the American navy into the second place, next to Great Britain, and illustrated the indispensableness of seapower in war as it had seldom, if ever, been demonstrated before.

There has never been a greater triumph on the ocean than that which was symbolized by the surrender of the German navy. It surpassed those victories off the Nile and off Trafalgar which destroyed French seapower more than a century ago and helped immeasurably to bring about the fall of Napoleon. It should make us understand clearly that seapower won the war for England and its allies. From the first day of the war British sea power,

seconded later by that of Italy, France and America, made it impossible that Germany could win.

It was not easy to see the part played by seapower, for much of it was everted behind the curtain or in the wings, nor any easier to understand its effect. Yet the fact remains that the navies of England ruled the seven seas and silently held the Teutonic powers in the unbreakable grip of vice. There probably has never been so perfect use of seapower as the use of the British navy during the recent war. It is the one arm of service that has done what it was set to do and has done with scarcely a slip, setback or instance of recklessness. The only instance of failure that now comes to mind.

Bismarck knew that seapower had overthrown the great Napoleon, and Bismarck took pains to wage wars in which seapower could not be used against Prussia or Germany. But Emperor William, who is said to have told Mahan that he had devoured his books on seapower, misread them and mistook shadow for substance. He deluded himself into the belief that his navy was a match for England's and that Germany's future lay on the sea. His delusion caused him to lean on a broken reed and brought him to a Waterloo.—Spokesman Review.

Hun Spirit Unchanged.

When the Prussian Guard returned to Berlin last Tuesday, it was received with distinguished honor. Streets were decorated with evergreens and flags, the troops marched under the old national colors, and the bands played "Deutschland über Alles," the same national song whose music and words filled Berlin, August 1, 1914, when the Kaiser's invincible army started to make "Germany over all" a hideous reality.

According to the head of the new German government, the army of the Kaiser was not defeated. Premier Ebert, the chosen leader of a new democracy, addressing the soldiers, made this astounding utterance:

"Your deeds and sacrifices are unexampled. No enemy overcame you. Only when the preponderance of our opponents in men and material grew over heavier did we abandon the struggle."

Germany does not admit defeat. When the fighting got too heavy, she merely quit. In the same breath, Premier Ebert tries to convert German atrocities into German honor by saying:

"You endured undescribable sufferings, accomplished incomparable deeds, and gave, year after year proofs of your unshakable courage. You protected the homeland from invasion, shielded your wives, children and parents from flames and slaughter and preserved the nations workshops and fields from devastation. You can return with heads erect."

Many Americans believe that hostilities should not have ceased until the German army was destroyed. The reception of the Prussian Guard and the premier's speech will strengthen the belief that the armistice was signed ten days too soon.

In quite another way, and right here in Oregon, we have proof that the military autocratic spirit of the plain German people has not been changed by defeat. Miss Willemina Doerfler, teacher of a country school not far from Salem, pasted a picture of William Hohenzollern alongside that of Woodrow Wilson on the wall of the school room. It scarcely need be added that Miss Doerfler has resigned.—Telegram.

Only Unconsciously Tools.

It would not be fair to assume that all of the men whose names appear on the list given by A. Bruce Bielaski as "actively pro-Germans" before the United States went into the war knew that they were working for Germany or that they were counted as helpers of the German cause against the allies. Many of them have such distinctly German names that they no doubt intentionally did all they could for the Fatherland, but many other names are as distinctly non-German, and, with rare exceptions, other motives for their conduct must be sought.

With the great majority of this last class the moving impetus must have either been devotion to the pacifist cult or a prejudice against any cause which was supported by men of wealth, or a mixture of both. Columbia University seems to have been a stronghold of this type of man, for no less than three of its professors are on the list of the Kaiser's friends while Princeton has two. Dr. David Starr Jordan would not knowingly help the cause of such an arch-criminal as William II, but he let his hatred of war run away with his judgment as to when war was not only justifiable but necessary. Professor John W. Burgess was probably infected with culture while serving as exchange professor at Berlin, in fact the Kaiser seems to have promoted the exchange system for the purpose of injecting pro-Germanism into American colleges. Robert I. Ford is so fervent a hater of England that his ruling passion could easily be played upon, while Professor A. B. Hart, of Harvard, is always glad of a chance to muckrake the corporations, whom the pro-Germans for this occasion called munition manufacturers.

The revelation is a lesson to men not to let strong opinions and preju-

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dices opposing the general trend of public sentiment run away with their judgment. It also teaches that the judgment of the average man on the street is more apt to be sound than that of many a man to whom we entrust the training of young men's minds. In fact, it is a warning not to permit our colleges to fall into the hands of men who have violent prejudices or peculiar opinions or who become cranks on any subject. We want level-headed men as professors and teachers, and educators should strive to keep their heads level.—Oregonian.

Eagles or Dodoes?

The naval appropriation bill, now under consideration in the House Committee, is furnishing an opportunity for the Republicans to initiate their announced program of retrenchment in war expenditures. The proceeding before the committee have brought out already some startling facts. For instance, it appears that of the 112 eagle boats to be built by Henry Ford only one is in commission, and 12 more are about ready to be turned over to the Italian Government. The entire contract is to cost about \$50,000,000, yet the navy department recommends that it be proceeded with until completed. It is suggested that while they are no longer useful for war purposes, the eagles can be used in the Philippines and along our coasts. Such arguments are not appealing to the Republicans of the committee, and it is probably that they will insist that the Ford contract be cancelled. The appropriation for the navy last year amounted to \$1,800,000,000 but this year the estimates call for \$2,400,000,000. It is certain that when the bill emerges from committee the republicans will have succeeded in lopping from it some huge slices. Representative T. S. Butler, of Pennsylvania, ranking republican member of the committee has signified his intention to insist on the elimination from the bill of all war items that can now be dispensed with.—Umpqua Valley News.

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