

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Timely, Pertinent Comment Upon Men and Affairs, Following the Trend of World News; Suggestions of Interest to Readers; Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers in this locality who wish to fully cover all sections of Oregon and Washington and a portion of Idaho will apply to local publishers for rates.

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TO READERS.

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Oregon-Washington-Idaho Farmer, 411 Panama Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, live stock and poultry interests of the Northwest, and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited, for the Farm Magazine proclaims neutrality on these three matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your live stock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

GIVE THANKS.

IT IS TRULY TOO BAD that, in spite of large crops, the market is restricted and that you are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Of course, the prospects within the next few months look good, and next year should be a hummer, but right now money is a "wee bit tight." It is true that you are probably doing without quite a few of the necessities that about five years ago you thought were luxuries. Yes, jobs are scarce and there is not much money to be had anywhere, but instead of whining about this it is up to you to feel enormously grateful that things are no worse.

When you feel a bit down in the mouth and the world and life seems tinged with blue, take a little time off and think. You know the financial depression, psychological or otherwise, is a fact now, but it is but temporary, and you also know, what is of far greater importance, that you live in America.

Do you realize what it means to live in America today? In a vague manner you have doubtless felt thankful that you were not called to war for a trifling cause last August and that you are not in danger of facing death on the battle line. Have you thought all it means to you? Have you remembered that while a hard winter may pinch you a trifle, it means absolute poverty and starvation for millions in Europe? Have you stopped to think that you are able to eat three meals a day, while it is a lucky person in war-torn Belgium that can eat once a day? Have you thought that while you have warm clothes to wear during the winter's chill, that hundreds of thousands on the old continent will face the snows thinly clad and that hundreds, if not thousands, of those who are not at war will probably die of exposure?

The condition of affairs in Europe cannot be fully realized in America. It is hard for us to imagine even dimly what it means to give up home and a living and flee for life. We cannot picture but vaguely the plight of the women of Europe who are thrown largely on their own resources to care for themselves and their families while the men are fencing with death. If the winter now here is a severe one the privations and sufferings in Europe will be beyond the imagination of any in placid America.

And it is not only the countries through which the armies are pouring that will suffer. England will be hard put to supply her large population with the necessities of life. Germany and France are, of course, in the same position. Business in all the warring countries is at an absolute standstill. Canada, with plenty to feed her own population, faces financial depression which will not lift until the war is over. Australia, New Zealand and other territorial governments subservient to England are suffering in the same manner. They are drained of many fighting men and their resources will

suffer from lack of men to develop them. With the unsettled valuation of currency in the lands at war it is natural that financial enterprises must halt until the war nears an end. No business thinks of planning for future growth in these countries; each finds it difficult to hold its own.

So related by commercial ties are the countries of the world that the earthquake which has shaken to the foundations all business enterprises in the rich nations at war cannot but affect the neutral nations. America is marking time today, but when a favorable opportunity presents itself will plunge into the marts of the world with her wealth of produce of every kind and reap prosperity. America is not seeking to profit by the distress of her brother nations, but America is the potential land of vast resources which, if the war lasts long enough, must feed the world.

Yes, it is true things may be rather dull with you and the immediate outlook blue, but are you in danger of your life, is your property about to be confiscated by your government's enemies, is your business irreparably ruined, are you ill-prepared to face the rigors of winter, and, again, is your physical and your financial life threatened? Well, then, give thanks.

THE CHILD IN POLITICS.

AN ATTENDANT FEATURE of the recent elections, which may have been generally overlooked, was the importance of the child as an appeal. Candidates carried favor not by kissing the children of the voters, as in former times, but by promising to work for better schools, better sanitary conditions, everything possible to make surroundings more favorable to the raising of children.

Issues made the same appeal. In Oregon where more normal schools were wanted an appeal to voters was headed, "For the Sake of Our Children." In both Oregon and Washington those interested in the cause of Prohibition made as a strong argument against liquor traffic its need for debauching the child in order to grow. "The Saloon Needs Children. Have You One to Spare?" was a widely circulated statement.

Where conditions of municipality or state were to be changed in any radical way, the effect of the change upon the coming generation was often an effective argument for or against the issue. The child played an important part in politics.

And why should not the child receive the highest consideration of the voters? It is he who will be mostly affected by the majority of measures now going into operation. It is he who will have to pay for the mistakes of men elected today. It is he who will benefit by the wise legislation of sensible lawmakers.

WORK OF THE SURGEONS.

IT IS HOPED, because of the great improvement in medicine, surgery and hygiene, that the present European war will show a marked decrease in the number of deaths from disease and wounds. There has been steady progress on these lines for nearly a century, and it has been most rapid in the last few years, during which time mankind has mastered the science of sanitation and the prevention or limitation of diseases.

Full returns from the front have, therefore, been awaited with great interest. We have little definite information as yet on which to base any estimate, but scattering figures are encouraging. It will, of course, not do to include in the estimate the large number of wounded who have been left to die on the battlefield, because they have been unable, in most cases, to receive treatment. The fighting has been so furious and so bitter at times that in most cases armistices asked for to recover the wounded have been refused, and thousands have been allowed to die on the battlefield for lack of removal or attention. But for those who have come under the care of the surgeons and the nurses the reports are most gratifying and the deaths fewer than ever.

Sir William Osler reports the case of the hospital at Oxford to which seven hundred

British wounded were moved whereof only one died. It is probable that the more severe wounds were treated in France, but even allowing for this fact the figures are gratifying, especially if we recall the heavy British losses in the South African war, when the deaths from wounds were half as great as those on the field of battle, and the deaths from disease nearly three times as many.

A great improvement is recorded in the munitions of war, in the means of taking life by arms, bombs and explosives. It will be gratifying to show, if it is possible to do so, that surgery and medicine have made as great progress as the art of war, and that the surgeons, doctors and nurses have saved a large proportion of those struck down during the strife.

BLIND LEADERS.

IT IS NOT STRANGE that much misinformation concerning the war is spread by word of mouth among those who are able to give only slight attention to the course of events, in view of the astonishing errors which are the work of newspapers making high pretensions to accuracy and intelligence. In a recent issue of one such daily paper, there were three outstanding and gross exhibitions of ignorance in the discussion and presentation of war news.

Two were in an editorial. One spoke of "Ostend, the only real seaport of Belgium," thus placing a city which is noted chiefly as a summer resort like Atlantic City and as a landing place for steamers plying across the English Channel ahead of Antwerp, one of the three ports of Europe that outrank all the rest. To compare Ostend with Antwerp as a seaport is almost like contrasting Atlantic City with Philadelphia, or Newport with New York.

In the same editorial the Germans are credited with holding "their lines across the entire breadth of France." Take any map of France and draw lines to the frontier, north to Belgium and east to Germany, from a point one-third of the way from Paris to the Belgian boundary and it will be seen at a glance how ludicrously far such lines fall short of stretching across "the entire breadth of France." About 4 per cent, perhaps 5 per cent, of the area of France is inside the German lines, yet they are said to extend "across the entire breadth of France."

Blind leaders of the blind fall into many ditches. Newspapers assuming to give information ought to avoid very gross and obvious errors of their own.

UNIQUE WORLD EXPERIMENT.

SCHOOL BOYS of the future will read a strange chapter in their histories. It will tell of one of the world's unique experiments, 19th century militarism. Even barbaric history knows nothing like it.

In the face of the greatest international, fraternizing influences the world has ever known, the nations of Continental Europe made a soldier of every adult man. What might have been the immense creative Power of the modern State, backed by invention and machinery, was turned to destruction.

And the text books of the future will record how this piling avalanche of malevolent energy drove irresistibly—and yet how little foreseen—toward a catastrophic end. The histories will picture the great 300-mile battle-lines of whole peoples locked motionless in a deadly embrace till—

What will be the final chapter to this strange story?

Still, the Russian soldiers haven't notified their friends and relatives yet to send their Christmas presents to Berlin.

Possibly the Germans rate their mines in the North Sea as among their most profitable resources. Yet the British have played the principal part in their development.

American ambassadors are not now growling about their places of residence, providing the cellars are deep enough.

And King Cotton isn't the only King sadly in need of a loan.