

FRIDAY EVENING  
July 9, 1915

# Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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Editor and Manager.

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## IT MIGHT HELP SOME

If the United States had any authority in international law through which it could restrain England from ramming German submarines bent, as claimed, merely upon searching merchant vessels for contraband, a solution might be furnished for the vexatious problem of submarine warfare as involving the possibility of further sacrifice of non-combatant lives, says the Boise (Idaho) Statesman.

It is indicated, but not officially promised, that if England would withdraw its orders to the commanders of merchant vessels flying the British flag to ram German submarines the German government would not hesitate to comply with our demands. But the best students of international law hold that the United States could not impose such restrictions, and even the German foreign office does not contend that such representations to England would be in line with international law.

We cannot go beyond steps for the protection of American lives and property. We cannot say to England that she must not attack an instrument designed for and exclusively used for purposes of war no more than we could say to Germany that she must not attack an English battleship.

It is only when United States citizens or their property are being transported within their rights on such vessels as have always been recognized in international law as being immune from assault, at least without first searching them and taking off their passengers, that this government may legitimately interpose an objection, except, of course, on humanitarian lines.

It might not be out of place for our state department on such grounds to suggest to England that merchant ships should be ordered not to ram submarines but to submit to search. We believe our position would be strengthened by such a course, although admitting that there is no warrant in international law for drastic representations on our part.

## MAJORITY OFTEN WRONG

On almost any question a very large number of the people would vote wrong—wrong, as history would prove. Thus about half of Philadelphia's respectable citizens strongly opposed the Declaration of Independence.

Very nearly half the people in the thirteen States voted against the Constitution under which we have lived for 124 years and which we now revere. Patrick Henry, James Monroe and scores of leaders declared it would lead to a kingdom.

Half the people of the country were led to believe the United States Bank was a political monster, and so Jackson handed the Republic over to a system of corrupt State banks.

"Let the erring sisters go in peace," was a popular phrase prior to the Civil War, and disunion rather than fight was preached in many a pulpit and applauded by newspapers and eminent citizens.

Far more than half the voters of the United States voted against the first election of Lincoln.

Every big American city fought against the introduction of gas as a deadly menace. When the railroads came at about the same time they were branded as the sure death of a great part of the population. "Franklin's lightning rods" were ridiculed by some as "Lightning catchers." The trolley cars only a score of years ago were pictured as so many juggernauts.

The populace combated vaccination against smallpox, and it still fights in India against scientific treatment of the bubonic plague.

The county court of Marion county is doing much good, permanent road work this year. And best of all they are issuing no bonds.

For once official reports from Berlin and Paris agree. Both say today that Arras is being battered into a mass of ruins by German shells.

The Chautauqua spirit seems to have taken hold of Salem people in earnest. Last night the big tent was filled to overflowing.

## LADD & BUSH, Bankers

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The Mexican situation does not improve. The real trouble is that Mexico has no leaders who combine both thought for the common people with ability and that tact which is necessary to hold the middle classes in line for the land-law reforms that must precede Mexican peace. Give a man a job, a home, plenty for the present and security for the future and you have a very poor rebel. Rob him of all these, turn him adrift with his family and he is bound to fight. When Mexican landowners realize this and adjust themselves to the inevitable, peace will come to that country, and not before—unless the United States concludes to take a hand in the enforcement of law and order.

Cyclones and tornadoes are sweeping over the middle West this week. It is just one catastrophe after another back there.

## STATE NEWS

Enclosed Missoula, Mont., June 1, 1915.—International Standard Oil Company has sold its interest in the oil fields of the Blackfoot River valley to the Standard Oil Company of California. The sale price was \$100,000.

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