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IF THEY UNDERSTOOD

While the war in Europe rages and men go to their death daily by thousands, one is forced to wonder how many if any really understand what they are fighting for or about. While the masses do the fighting, it is distinctly a war of the classes. The German farmers and laboring men had no quarrel with their fellows in France, Belgium, Russia or England, yet they are pouring out their blood in desperate battle with them. The converse of the proposition is equally true, and those fighting Germany, that is the private soldiers, have little or any knowledge as to what they are doing it for.

It can safely be asserted that had the whole situation been thoroughly explained to, and understood by the masses of each of the warring countries, the war would not have taken place, for the masses would have refused to go to the front to slaughter their fellow men or to be slaughtered by them.

Indeed if those now at each others throats really understood the situation, it is doubtful if the war would last another week, for they would understand that when the harvest of death had been gathered, that such of them as survive would have a burden of debt laid upon their shoulders, that would bear heavily not only upon them but on generation after generation yet to be born.

How many of them know that the daily cost of the war is eighty-five million dollars, or at the rate of thirty billion, thirty thousand millions of dollars a year, with an interest burden of one billion five hundred million dollars a year, and that the indirect loss is fully as much more?

How many of them know that if the war is prolonged until February, and the death and loss rate continues as it has during the war there will have been killed in battle more than five million men, the flower of the manhood of the warring countries?

How many of them know that the deaths from sickness up to that time will be at least two million five hundred thousand, a total of seven million five hundred thousand deaths in eighteen months?

How many of them realize that of the vast armies that have been, or are now in the field, more than five million will be permanent cripples, by the time the war is eighteen months old?

How many of them realize that of those who survive the bloody field and deadly exposure seventy-five per cent will never recover physically or morally from the effect of their service and association?

If the masses realized that their countries were rushing headlong into bankruptcy, and must necessarily for many years be at a hopeless disadvantage in the race with other nations for progress and success, do you think they would still seek to assassinate each other without cause and without reason?

If the leaders, the monarchs, the little handful who plan and control and command, who know in advance and in detail what is to be done, what is intended for the future, were to enlighten the masses, take them into their confidence, and let them see clearly the plans, would not both those in the ranks as well as those at home rise up and compel the men in control to find some way of bringing the senseless conflict to an end?

It is not too much to demand that the people should know the reasons for the commencement and continuance of pending wars, and they should understand the awful consequences.

Those who are directly affected and who must bear the burdens are in a large measure ignorant of the facts which have been suppressed, partly at least, and probably almost entirely, because knowledge of these facts would prevent a continuance of the most stupendous, the most unreasonable, the most causeless destruction of life and property the world has ever witnessed.

AN EXAMPLE OF PATRIOTISM

France has set an example in patriotism that is remarkable. Fifteen weeks ago the French government

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appealed to the people to turn in their hoarded gold for the good of the country. In that time the people in response to this appeal have turned in \$182,000,000 and the end is not yet. For fifteen weeks the thrifty middle classes, and the really poor, have taken their little savings of gold, and placed it, as it were, an offering on the altars of patriotism at the rate of \$12,000,000 a week.

As stated this vast sum has been turned in by the poor, and in small individual amounts. When it is considered that a million dollars in gold will weigh about a ton and two-thirds, and that the deposits of \$12,000,000 a week means a turning in of twenty tons of gold coin, the number that has answered the call, it will be seen is large.

Here in America during the civil war, a similar call scared the gold into hiding so far that it could only be coaxed out to invest in greenbacks at forty cents on the dollar. Americans are probably as patriotic as other folks, sometimes, but when it comes to rubbing up against the American eagle on the American coin, patriotism, well anyway, it has to be given time to stutter.

The slides in the Panama canal are not slides at all in the common acceptation of the term. The formation is clay and earth, and this owing to the weight of the earth on each side of the deep cut in the canal squeezes the soft ground out sideways from under the hills and fills the canal, not by a slide from above, but with mud pressed out and up until the canal is filled. General Goethals has, as will be seen from today's telegraph news, ordered the mountains removed—on each side of the canal in order to relieve the pressure. In this respect Goethals is like Faith, but it is presumed that moving mountains is a slow job for either of them.

Rev. Clarence-True Wilson has two jobs of reform mixed. While sending out much literature on the drink evil, he also makes that literature comply with the demands of those who are trying to teach the American people to spell by ear. He will find that many papers will not handle his stuff on account of the spelling as the editors will not take the time to go through his copy and respell it.

Mrs. Galt is having her wedding outfit made in Baltimore. It is always that way. "Cows far off wear long horns" and "Far fetched and dear bought, pleases the ladies." If Mrs. Galt was to be married in Baltimore she would probably have her gowns made in Washington, New York or any old place except Baltimore. There are some Salem folks that are possessed of the same ideas.

At the bottom of the tremendous movement in stocks is just one thing—optimism. When the war is over the bottom will drop out and there will not be any optimism. In its place will be a panic caused by a lot of wrecked and "busted" speculators, from which the business of the country will suffer, though in no wise responsible for the senseless speculation.



THE WINTER STUNT

The furnace is yawning, the coal dealer's fawning around for a share of my trade; and soon I'll be spending piasters unending, for coal of which clinkers are made.

Last April how gladly, how merrily, madly, I shut the old furnace's door, and cried, "For a season there will be no reason to gorge you, you rusty old bore! No more must I, daily," I said to it, gayly, "come here with a scoop in my hand, and fill your steel belly with coal that is smelly, diluted with sulphur and sand!" But now to the cellar I go like a feller whose spirit is broken and crushed, a soul-weary toiler, to see that the boiler is blackened and polished and brushed; to clean up the damper and fix and revamp her, and tinker a while with the grate, the mica door spongin', and sweeping the dungeon, where shortly they'll dump in the slate. The furnace is yawning and soon I'll be pawning my watch for the price of the coal; ah, winter is bitter, it putteth a critter so deep in the dogdasted hole!

Carranza Is Not Affected by Embargo

Washington, Oct. 20.—In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, directing the enforcement of the embargo by customs officials, the president suggested, however, an exception in favor of Carranza.

"I have found that there exists in Mexico conditions of domestic violence promoted by the use of arms and munitions of war procured from the United States," the letter said. I hereby admonish all citizens of the United States, and every person to abstain from violation of the joint resolution of congress, and I hereby warn them that all violations will be rigorously prosecuted."

In a letter from Secretary Lansing to the president, permission for Carranza to receive arms was requested. "Information before this department," the letter said, "leads me to believe that the recognized de facto government of Mexico has now effected control of all ports of entry except

those along the international border in Chihuahua and Sonora and Lower California ports."

For the present, however, Carranza will not be allowed to have arms shipped into territory Lausang prescribed.

Everybody will admit he is fallible, except eight men out of ten.

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MOST OF LAND GOOD FOR CULTIVATION

Assistant State Engineer Points Out Availability of Forfeited Lands

Editor Capital Journal:—I was present at the conference held some time ago at the Commercial club to discuss the matter of disposing of the Oregon & California Road Grant Lands. I was much surprised at the unchallenged assertions of many of the speakers that only a very small part of the lands in this grant is susceptible of agricultural development after the timber has been removed. While I am not as familiar with the lands in the Oregon & California grant as some of those who spoke at the conference, judging from what I do know of the lands in particular and the Willamette valley and the country to the south in general, it is incomprehensible to me that a large proportion of these lands are unfit for agricultural purposes. Many elements must be considered in determining whether or not land is tillable; topography alone does not govern. Land that is very steep in the Willamette valley, for example, may pay better to farm than level land in the arid part of the state. Climate, fertility of the soil and market facilities are important factors in determining the suitability of the land for agricultural purposes. Lands, which twenty-five years ago were regarded as valuable for pasture only, are being eagerly sought today. Much of the thousand dollar acre Hood River lands in the early nineties, would doubtless have been classed as non-tillable. With excellent climate, fertile soil and adequate transportation facilities in favor of a large part of these lands, I am convinced that too much weight has been given their somewhat adverse topographic conditions and their agricultural possibilities grossly underestimated.

That this question is of great importance is borne out by the fact that the department of justice has seen fit to send its representatives out to inspect the lands. It is probable that congressional action will hinge on this point. If valuable for agriculture, due consideration will be given the states' claim that this land should remain on the tax roll. On the other hand if they are valuable only for timber and grazing, they will make a fine addition to the forest reserves. We may expect action by congress, depending upon the representations made to it with reference to the character of the lands, as follows: including the lands under the forest reserve or requiring the lands to be disposed of according to the terms of the original grant to actual settlers in not to exceed 160 acre tracts at \$2.50 per acre; or providing that the covenant be removed and the land turned over to the railroad company to dispose of in the manner and at the time and price it sees fit.

In exchange for state's support of this plan, a few dollars might be extracted to defray the state's exchequer. The lands would be sold at their value, greatly to the benefit of the company, to the detriment of the prospective settler and the state would be in the position of having sold its birthright for a mess of pottage. While the right of congress to remove any restrictions on the sale of the land imposed by the original grant is generally admitted, it is generally conceded that it is not within the power of congress to impose other restrictions, such as the payment of money to the state. It is therefore questionable whether the state would secure even a slight financial advantage through an alliance with the Southern Pacific.

Oregon needs more settlers, more land under cultivation, and if the Oregon & California lands are made to serve this purpose, they must be disposed of in accordance with the terms of the original grant.

PERCY A. CUPPER.

No Trace Is Found of Renton Robbers

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 20.—Efforts to capture two heavily armed men, who held up and robbed the Citizens' bank of Renton yesterday afternoon and escaped in an automobile with \$1,415 in gold and currency has utterly failed, so far today.

In spite of the fact that several posses of citizens started after the robbers almost within a minute after they fled from Renton, all trace of them is lost at the point near Bryn Mawr, where they leaped from the car driven by Harry Anderson, ordering the error stricken chauffeur to drive on without summoning the police, under penalty of death.

Stanley Rees, 20 years old, who was shot in the leg by one of the robbers as they were fleeing from Renton, is recovering from a painful wound.

The shots of the bandits were provoked when O. P. Stone, proprietor of a laundry, opened fire at them with a rifle. Instantly one of the men stood up in the automobile and fired directly at Rees and another man who was standing on a corner.

Inside the bank they covered Cashier R. W. Gilham and Miss Susan Woods, bookkeeper, with revolvers and ordered Gilham to give them "that money" or be killed.

A MERCURIAL DISPOSITION.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 20.—When assuaged by his wife of conduct unbecoming a good and faithful husband, F. W. Foster swallowed three mercury tablets and is in a dangerous condition in a hospital today from the effects of the poison.

Foster is an employe of the Northern Pacific railroad.

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PRATUM NOTES.

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Pratum, Or., Oct. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. Mark McAllister, of Salem, visited with Mr. McAllister's parents Sunday.

Miss Alicia Welty, of Pratum, will leave for Florence, Oregon, this week where she will keep house for her brothers.

Miss Anna Schroeder left for Salem several weeks ago where she will remain for some time.

Miss Esther Schupp spent the week end at home.

Miss Alicia Welty visited with Miss Mary Gerig last Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. C. A. Williams, of Silverton, spent last Sunday with the Geo. Schupp family.

A gravelled road is being put through from the county road to the warehouse, the work being done by the men who volunteered their services.

Miss Verna Lodi, of this place is staying in Salem.

Miss Priscilla Otterbein is visiting with friends in this neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder and son, Albert, had a fine auto ride Sunday afternoon with Mr. Otto Butler.

A parent-teachers meeting will be held next Friday afternoon at the Pratum school building.

GORED TO DEATH BY BULL

Leavenworth, Wash., Oct. 20.—The body of Charles Hove, aged 60, a stock raiser, gored to death yesterday by a Holstein bull, will be shipped to the family at Everett, it was announced today. He was driving the cattle home on his ranch when the bull rushed upon him.

SHOT WITH HIS OWN GUN.

Everett, Wash., Oct. 20.—Lloyd J. Southard, 14, is at the city hospital here with a badly lacerated arm and other injuries, as a result of a hunting accident near Granite Falls. The boy was sitting on a log when the gun fell and discharged.

JENSEN GOT HIS.

Portland, Or., Oct. 20.—Convicted on a statutory charge, J. Jensen, a massour is under sentence today from 3 to 20 years in the penitentiary. Jensen, it was charged, took advantage of his position as physician.

Where is the old-fashioned boy who called a man a "gunner" instead of a "guy"?

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