

Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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THE "BACK TO THE FARM" MOVEMENT

There is just one thing that keeps the "back to the farm" movement from becoming the rage and that is that the most ardent advocates of it, want others to do the "backing," instead of going back themselves.

There are numberless reasons why the movement is not hilariously popular, enough of them that it would take a couple of columns to enumerate them, but here are a few.

The American is a pleasure loving character, a speed maniac in all that he does, and the farm life is too slow. Once accustomed to city ways the farm ceases to be attractive. The rising with the sun does not appeal to one who is in the habit of going to bed at that hour. Following a plow all day on foot somehow does not seem near so delightful as putting a foot on a pedal and turning on the gasoline while sitting on the cushioned seat of a joy wagon.

Picking the incarnadine berries from the dew-laden vines before breakfast listens nice but in practice does not appeal to the man who can, lying in bed, press a button and have the same berries nicely washed and culled brought to him in bed along with plenty of rich cream that he did not have to get from a cow himself.

The little country gathering, where everybody knows everybody else, and which is indeed one of the most enjoyable occasions to him who has not been spoiled and mentally diseased by being inoculated with the city bug, is to him an unmitigated bore.

The having to go to the pump for water instead of turning a faucet in any room in his house and getting it fresh and colder than from the moss-covered bucket, does not appeal to his esthetic tastes.

The little amateur exercises at the school house so dear to us older folks, so filled with the most delightful memories, are to the city dweller insipid, dreary, unbearable.

Maud Muller with her graceful ankles bare and brown peeping from beneath her gown is not in the same class with the whole leg done in gauzy tights which he can see at any show in the city, at any time, two or three dozen pairs of them for half a dollar.

And so it goes through the whole list of human occupations, pursuits, pleasures or what you will, that serve to fill out the hours.

So much for the pleasurable side of farm life as the city person sees it. When it comes to the business or financial features the attractions are still less appealing. The farmer works harder, longer hours and has fewer lay offs than almost any other occupation, and for this he gets less pay than almost any other calling.

The trade rules of the world have hedged him about so he is helpless and there are so many of him that he cannot get a "union" that will stick, and so he becomes an easy prey to circumstances and the balance of the world. For everything he buys the other fellow fixes the price and for everything he sells someone, somewhere, he knows not who or where, fixes the price also. It is his business to feed the world and it naturally follows the world lives off him. His calling is the one absolutely necessary to the world's existence, and yet the world holds him in least honor. It treats him much as does a big calf which when hungry seeks its mother's dugs and no matter how thin and poor she may be from its persistent draining of her vitality, her strength, which she gives up to so freely and generously, it butts the harder, careless of results so long as its own appetite is satisfied. It is all wrong, but it is the existing fact just the same.

If the city man could be forced to live in the country and to earn his living on a farm he might be weaned from his city idols. He might learn the many compensations, the cleaner living, the more healthful atmosphere, the real joys of life instead of its false ones and in time learn to love and appreciate them. As this cannot be done it is safe to say the back to the farm movement will not materialize so long as the necessity for food does not compel it. Its strongest advocates are like the sign posts on the highway which point out the roads but never travel them.

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It took an English jury only fifty minutes to find Sir Roger Casement guilty of high treason, and about one minute longer for the judge to sentence him to death. In this country it would have been five or six months before the case would have been called, and it would have taken from a week to six of them to have secured a jury. Then instead of trying the case in one day it would have taken at the least a month. In this case considering the great work Sir Roger has done for the world and especially England, it would be a nice thing for the government to temper justice with mercy, and commute the sentence. Sir Roger is intensely patriotic, but his love for Ireland is greater than his love for the English nation as a whole. In his address before his sentence he said that loyalty was a crime only in England. He might have added that just now disloyalty is one of the gravest offenses, and yet England has nothing to gain by executing the death sentence on him.

Secretary Lansing intimated yesterday, that the United States might consider mediation, as suggested by Ambassador Naon of Argentina, but that before anything is done in this line, Carranza must make it plain that he will at once take firm and obvious steps to break up border raiders. President Wilson replying to a delegation from the Woman's Peace Party intimated much the same thing when he said: "Never in my administration shall it be said that any treaty of the United States is a 'scrap of paper.' We have come to a crisis where acts must follow words. While we have the greatest sympathy with the problem of the Mexican people and their desire for self government, we have come to the point where we must insist that the lives and liberty of our people shall be safe from the depredation of Mexican bandits."

Before proceeding to skin the Mexicans might it not be a good plan to give Carranza a shave? He seems to imagine he is something of a modern Samson, and it may be he suspects his strength lies in his whiskers. If he was shaved he might discover that instead of being a Samson he was only the weapon Samson used against the Philistines. Someone expressed it epigrammatically this way:

"Jack eating too ripe cheese did say
Like Samson I my thousands slay.
Yes, said a wag, indeed you do
And with the selfsame weapon too."

The Oregonian in discussing the Mexican situation and what it calls the refusal of the present administration to take steps to settle the matter, is not entirely frank. If every one of its assertions are true, they are true not only for the three years of the present administration, but for about two years of that of President Taft. Instead of speaking of three years of watchful waiting it should if it wanted to be absolutely fair include the last two years of the republican administration of President Taft.

The weather sharps report that there is not quite nine inches surplus rainfall so far this year, and the surplus is steadily increasing, as in an average year there is little or no rain after the middle of June while this year there seems no let up to the showers. Let us hope that Monday next old Aquarius will have enough respect for the finest babies in the world, to go chase himself.

D. W. Campbell at present assistant general manager of the Southern Pacific will be transferred to Los Angeles July 1. After that date it will be possible for the Commercial Club and Salemites generally to think what they please about the palatial depot here, so long as they don't put their thoughts in words, without being guilty of "lese majeste."

Wonder whom the president had in mind when in his talk to the advertising clubs at Philadelphia yesterday he said among other things: "I could give you a short list of men who think the United States is not safe out of their hands?"



ADAM'S OFF OX

The world is old, and man still talks, at times, of Adam's starboard ox. When any man's profoundly dead, of him it's usually said, by folks on the adjacent blocks, that he's as dead as Adam's ox. And if a stranger you shall see, and you are asked who he may be, you say, "I give it up, old sox; I know him not from Adam's ox." You say the "off ox," all the time, but that won't fit into this rhyme. Oh, famous beast, immortal ox, whose shade still on this footstool walks! No other brute, since time began, no mouse or mule or mole or man, thus effortless has won renown, a fame the ages cannot down! How did you play your bovine game, that you have earned this deathless fame? We hear no word of Adam's hog, of Adam's mule, of Adam's dog; we've no description of his stove, or of the motor car he drove, or if his watch or Sunday hat, or his imported Maltese cat, but his off ox has come to stay; we hear it quoted every day.



BERLIN BELIEVES

(Continued from Page 1)

in several weeks, marked activity is reported along the Isonzo front, particularly around Goritz.

The Austrians are now offering most stubborn resistance to the Italian advance in the Trentino. The newspapers give warning that the next few days may see none of the spectacular victories that marked the first days of the Italian offensive when from six to eight enemy positions were captured every 24 hours.

Attack Kuropatkin.

Petrograd, June 30.—The Germans have begun a series of sudden violent attacks against General Kuropatkin's entire front from Riga through Jacobstadt to Delzak. It is believed Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is launching a Russian offensive in an effort to divert Russian troops from the Galician and Volhynian campaign.

Virtually all of Kuropatkin's forces are under bombardment. German raiding parties have been harassing the Russian lines for 48 hours.

Interest is divided between the German operations in the north and the Russian advance on Kolomena in south-eastern Galicia. Unofficial reports today placed the Russian lines within less than 10 miles of Kolomena, which is of great strategic importance, because of its position as a railway center.

Sea-sawing at Verdun.

Paris, June 30.—The Germans last night shifted their attack back to the west bank of the Meuse and delivered several violent assaults preceded by liquid fire between Avocourt and Hill 304 the war office announced.

All the attacks were repulsed, the en-

emy suffering frightful losses, but east of Hill 304, the Germans carried the first line of a fortified works in which all the French occupants had been buried. The French recaptured the works by a most brilliant counter attack.

The Germans became active yesterday along the Belgian front, but a German attack was repulsed. Near Nieuport French artillery supporting the Belgian lines dispersed three enemy reconnoissances.

British Are Repulsed.

Berlin, June 30.—British attacks at various places along the German front have been repelled the war office announced this afternoon.

In the fighting northwest of Verdun, the Germans have made progress near Hill 304.

French detachments attacked the German front in the Champagne region between Tahure and Maison De Champagne but were repulsed with bloody losses.

Report Russian Gains.

Paris, June 30.—The newspaper Echo De Paris declared today that the Russians have captured the important Galician railway city of Kolomena.

Petrograd dispatches to the United Press today reported the Russians within 10 miles of Kolomena.

Say Russians Checked.

Berlin, June 30.—The Russians made fruitless counter attacks southeast of Wineska in the region west of Sokol, the war office announced this afternoon. The Germans took 100 prisoners and seven machine guns.

MEXICAN CAPITAL

(Continued from Page One)

conference were that Carranza's plan is to send his answer through the envoy rather than through Consul Rodgers at Mexico City.

Carranza's delay was partially explained in official quarters as due, perhaps to an effort on his part to let matters calm down and if possible to shape up with his cabinet an answer satisfactory to the United States.

These facts developed today after the cabinet session. Only brief consideration was given the Mexican situation because of the president's haste to catch a train for New York, where he will speak tonight before the Press club.

Few Americans Left Capital.

Indications here, however, were that in this session the members determined that the United States cannot give Carranza very much more time to show his attitude toward this government.

As for the general policy toward Mexico and the military situation, cabinet members said the meeting had not altered these.

The state department has telegraphed Consul Rodgers at Mexico City that all Americans must leave Mexico immediately or the United States will not be responsible for their safety, according to a telegram to Mexican Ambassador Arredondo from Mexico City today.

Fewer than 500 Americans have left Mexico City and not more than 500 from the surrounding territory, the telegram said. A great majority of Americans in Mexico City have decided to remain. The Mexican government has guaranteed protection of the lives of and the property of the Americans in the states of Tabasco and Guanajuato whenever Americans express a desire to remain.

Arredondo emphatically denied today reports from Mexico City that American property was being confiscated. He has received a number of dispatches lately saying great feeling exists against Mexicans on the American side of the border.

Relief has been promised the Ewans Box company of Klamath Falls which was to have closed on account of a shortage of freight cars. The S. P. has informed the state public ser-

MILITARY BILL IS A RECORD BREAKER

Two Thirds of a Billion Dollars Appropriated for Army and Navy

Washington, June 30.—The biggest military appropriations in the history of the nation have already been set aside, or are about to be set aside, by this session of congress. Congressmen pointed out today that instead of the quarter of a billion dollars customarily appropriated at each session for military purposes the present session will chalk up a record of from three-fifths to three-fourths of a billion.

Leading expenditures as compared with previous appropriations are:

Navy, \$314,387,343; \$149,563,593 (in 1898).

Army, \$250,000,000; \$101,974,195 (in 1910).

Forts, \$25,120,110; \$9,517,141 (in 1897).

Armor plate plant \$20,000,000.

Deficiency act \$27,559,348.

Totals, \$657,066,901 and \$261,254,899. This year's army bill is not yet completed, but the figures given are those estimated by committee members drafting the measure.

In addition there are many minor bills which have passed separately. These probably will easily total \$10,000,000.

The pension act for this year calls for \$158,000,000—40,000,000 less than last year's figures.

vice commission that it will send ten cars to the factory today. Customers of the Ewans company threatened suit unless they could get boxes to take care of their fruit shipments.

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