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Editor and Publisher

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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

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WHAT YANKEE TROOPS ARE DOING.

Regarding the operations on the western front from day to day and their significance, most readers are in the dark. It is hard to follow the movements even on a war map and to understand the objectives of the various drives undertaken against the German lines in France. This fact makes a daily review of the situation by some one who has thoroughly studied it a matter of interest as well as a source of information. For instance, J. W. T. Mason, the United Press war expert, explains the movements of the American army in his review of yesterday, as follows:

The American progress between the Argonne forest and the Meuse river is now approaching the Grand-Pre road, which cuts the forest in two. This forest will serve as a connecting line, when captured, for the Americans on the west and east flanks of the forest.

It is apparently General Pershing's present purpose to move his front between the Argonne and the Meuse to Grand Pre and, by effecting a junction with the French and Americans to the west, squeeze the Germans out of the southern half of the forest area.

The Franco-Americans who are operating on the west side of the Argonne have recently halted their advance at the western entrance to the Grand Pre passage. Their drive toward Vouziers, which is the base for a turning movement against the whole of the Argonne, has come to a temporary rest because of the immense reserve force which Von Hindenburg has thrown into this sector.

Marshal Foch will not countenance a major offensive by the allies at present anywhere along the west front. Hence, French and Americans are abstaining from costly frontal attacks in an effort to reach Vouziers and clean out the Argonne of its innumerable machine gun nests and concealed artillery positions by a single movement.

But, while waiting for a more favorable opportunity to resume the advance to the west of the Argonne, General Pershing has undertaken the very arduous work of forging ahead on the east border. The Americans are little more than five miles south of Grand Pre, but they are subjected to a constant flank attack all the way by the enemy concealed in the Argonne.

The fact that the American front between the Argonne and the Meuse measured no more than a dozen miles is also a handicap.

Nevertheless, the creeping advance continues. The Americans are following the course of the Aire river, which borders the Argonne on the east and runs through the Grand Pre pass into the Aisne on the western side.

When the Americans reach Grand Pre their right wing on the Meuse can be advanced very considerably toward Stenay to cut off Luxemburg, which continues to be General Pershing's objective.

Most of us hoped the president would return a curt negative reply to the German peace proposal, just as he did to the recent Austrian note. He has seen fit, however, to do otherwise, leaving an opening for further communications on the subject and the nation will acquiesce in the course he has taken. It may be he has placed the German militarists in a position where their insincerity will be fully bared to the world. The president's questions are very direct and it will be extremely embarrassing for Chancellor Max to answer them unless he is ready to acknowledge complete defeat of the Prussian program.

Admittedly the president made a subtle maneuver when in his message he inquired whether Prince Max spoke for Germany's war lords or was he the people's mouthpiece as well. As, is generally believed here, Germany's peace offer was hypocritical the president's answer is designed to put the masters of Germany into a diplomatic hole. They must no waccept President Wilson's peace terms as a whole in good faith or stand before the world convicted of deceit.

With butter at 75 cents a pound, and the state food administration asleep at the switch, the creamery trust is not worrying very much about how long the war lasts.

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NEFARIOUS INITIATIVE MEASURES.

C. S. Jackson, publisher of the Portland Journal, and leading single tax advocate of Oregon, has initiated two bills to be voted upon at the general election. One of these bills repeals the delinquent tax publication law and the other sets the price for printing legal notices in Oregon, outside of Portland, where Mr. Jackson prints a paper and claims the right to charge any rate he pleases.

It is quite generally presumed that Mr. Jackson initiated these bills because the country newspapers of the state offended him by opposing the single tax measures which have from time to time appeared in the ballot. It may be, however, that abstractors, who thrive on mixed titles, court house claim scalpers and speculators in delinquent tax certificates raised a fund to persuade the Portland Journal to espouse their cause. It must have cost a very considerable sum of money to pay petition circulators and other expenses incurred in the initiation of the bills.

The tax payers generally desire the publication of the delinquent tax list because it is a businesslike way of doing business. It gives everybody full notice, stimulates tax payments, protects the taxpayer in all his rights, and enables the county to finally close its books each year with no over-hanging delinquencies.

In Marion county for instance, we do practically a million dollars of public business each year—collect that amount in taxes and disburse it in various ways. The delinquent publication here in two papers usually costs about \$600 or \$300 to each paper. What private corporation doing a million dollars of business annually would not be glad to close up its books and turn over a new leaf at the end of the year for an expense of \$600?

Moreover, this expense does not fall upon the taxpayers generally, but upon the delinquent taxpayers who must foot the advertising bill. It is also a protection to the delinquent, worth all its costs, because it gives the full protection of publicity under a system by which the tax lien shark cannot buy his property in the dark and put him to serious trouble and expense. The Jackson method, as proposed in the nefarious bill he has initiated, is in the interest only of the speculator. It is worse, if possible, than the single tax measures he has so often attempted to saddle upon the land owners of Oregon.

The state police, Governor Withycombe's political bodyguard, is growing more valient every day. Since their gallant defense of the state fair they have been busy raiding the funeral cortege of a Baker City woman, in a search for liquor which did not exist, and in other similar ways making themselves disagreeable to law-abiding citizens.

One condition which President Wilson imposes on Germany seems quite unnecessary. General Foch is seeing to it that all allied territory is being evacuated without unnecessary delay by the Prussian military forces.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

VON HERTLING.

Von Hertling would berate us; he says, with sign of pain, "Our enemies all hate us with hatred that's insane!" Of course we ought to love them, the Germans, rank and file, and Bill, who reigns above them, with eagles on his tile. And in the past we thought them an honest, kindly race; until they showed, dod rot them, our views were out of place. And even when they slaughtered like butchers run amuck, till France and Belgium tottered beneath foul blows they struck, we said, "It is their princes who make of war a fright; the rulers all are quinces, but Germans are all right." Oh, we were slow believing how vile the Teuts could be, although their boats went weaving like pirates through the sea; although with glee inhuman they plied the sword and dirk on babe and priest and woman, and gloried in the work. Since this war had its morning it's been the Prussian plan to view with jeers and scorning the laws of God and man. Oh, sure, we ought to love them, the whole blamed filthy nest, Red Bill, who rules above them, Von Hertling and the rest. Love them, who have been clothing with dead the land and seas! But love must turn to loathing when facing brutes like these.

THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

CHAPTER LIII.

"When did you see Miss King last?" Ruth asked, trying not to let too much anxiety appear in her voice.

"Why—when—" Brian stammered, then, as always when he was embarrassed, he commenced to bluster:

"Who told you I saw her at all? People are in great business! Why can't they let a fellow alone?"

"No one told me. You told it yourself."

"Me—I—what do you mean?"

In spite of her jealousy, Ruth's sense of humor made her laugh. He was so genuinely fussed.

"Why tonight when Mrs. Curtis elaborated upon my kindness in letting Miss King enjoy your society to such an extent, she also said that Mollie King had told her that I knew that you spent the evenings I was away, with her. Now, as I had not told Mrs. Curtis anything about it, very evidently Miss King had. And how could she know I knew and, Ruth had been about to add a sarcastic 'approved,' but she said 'didn't object,' instead, unless she had been told?"

"She and Mollie are as thick as two peas in a pod," Brian grumbled.

"You haven't answered me, Brian. When did you see her?"

DON QUIXOTE UP-TO-DATE

"Lead me to it," said a young American captain when a doughboy told him a German count—a high officer, of course—was waiting to surrender to a colonel.

"No colonels in my company today; just come with me," the captain said—and the count came!

The count wore a monocle, he carried a cane, he was some count. The doughboy didn't say "your highness," or spill any of that kind of bunk. He shook hands with the count, gave him a cigarette and hustled him back to the prison cages, like he was a regular fellow.

And perhaps the count is a regular fellow by this time.

"They lack the dashing appearance of the French cavalry; they haven't the stateliness of the British cavalry

"Oh, a day or two ago," "at luncheon?"

"Yes. She wanted my advice—as a lawyer—and telephoned me. It was about luncheon time, so I took her to lunch and we talked them. We both had to eat, and it saved her a trip to my office."

"My, what an elaborate explanation!" Ruth said ironically, then at once plunged into another subject. Now she was glad she had not told Brian about her Delmonico luncheon. Had she, he would have blamed her for his big not wanting to lunch alone, she thought, as he always blamed her for not wanting to dine alone when she was out of town.

Brian, evidently relieved, was willing to follow her lead, and was pleasantly chatty both, then and the following morning. He had, to tell the truth, been a little uneasy over Ruth's recollection of his having lunched with Mollie. He had not relished her tone when she spoke of his "elaborate explanation."

Was she going to be nasty about Mollie? He hoped not! Mollie was such a good little pal. A fellow was so comfortable with her. Of course, if Ruth objected, he would have to keep away from her when Ruth was in town. When she was away—that was another matter. He had told Ruth how he stood on that point.

After he had left for his office, Ruth thought very seriously about him and Mollie King. Big tears welled up into her eyes as she thought that perhaps he was sorry he had married her instead of Mollie. The very feminine trick of making herself miserable even before she was sure there was anything to be miserable about, had not passed Ruth by, even though she were a business woman. Business, had in no way robbed Ruth of her femininity; nor of her womanly, or her womanish traits. So she had pictured herself neglected forlorn, because of Mollie King.

When she reported for her work, Arthur Mandel quickly sensed something wrong. She looked troubled, and there was a suspicious redness about her eyes.

"That fellow has been making her unhappy!" he thought to himself, and apostrophized him in no uncertain language—in his thoughts. "It's a darn shame," he resumed, yet could not help a feeling of pleasure that it would emphasize his own attitude toward her.

"You are not looking up to the mark," he said to her. "Take it easy today. Really, if you like, you may go home at noon. I shall be too busy to do anything about that western matter, and nothing else is at all pressing."

At first Ruth started to say she didn't care to go home. Then there rushed over her a desire to spend the afternoon in her own apartment. She would let Crawford go and meet Brian somewhere for dinner. She longed to be alone. So she thanked Mr. Mandel and said that if nothing came up between then and the noon hour to cause him to change his mind, she would be glad to go home.

"I have a number of little things get to do in my apartment. I shall be glad of the chance," she said, and then added rather shyly—she had not yet become accustomed to being in the position of employee—"Thank you very much, Mr. Mandel."

"Don't thank me, I'd"—he flushed and caught himself. He had almost told her more than he knew to be wise at this time. But he wanted her to owe her happiness to him. "I'd not have allowed you to show up at all today had I known you felt badly," he finished in a business-like manner.

"How good he is to me," Ruth said to herself as she went about her day's work. "I don't believe many employers are like him."

She was thinking, as it happened just exactly what Arthur Mandel intended for her to think.

(Tomorrow—land, Beekly Enlightens Ruth as to Brian's Whereabouts.)

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Cattle Market Now

In Better Condition

North Portland, Or., Oct. 9. — 200 head of cattle were received at the North Portland stock yards over night, Monday 1400 head. The cattle market has recovered from its demoralized condition of last week and all grades are selling steadily at following quotations: Prime steers \$11-12; good to choice steers \$9-11; fair to medium steers \$8-9-10; common to fair steers \$6-8; choice cows and heifers \$8-9; medium to good cows and heifers \$6-7-25; fair to medium cows and heifers \$5-6; canners \$3-4; bulls \$5-8; calves \$9-12; stockers and feeders \$6-8.

The new arrivals in the hog alleys over night was 500 head. Monday 2450 head. The market suffered a decline yesterday of 25 cents and as a consequence trading today is slow and has an undertone of weakness. Quotations: Prime mixed \$19.25-19.50; medium mixed \$18-19; rough heavies \$17.25-17.50; pigs \$15.50-16.50; bulk \$18.75-19.

With a nominal run of sheep and lambs over night the mutton market remains stationary at quotation as follows: Prime lambs \$12-14; fair to medium lambs \$9-11; yearlings \$10-11; wethers \$9-10; ewes \$6.50-9.

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