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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

Is the only newspaper in Salem whose circulation is guaranteed by the Audit Bureau of Circulations

BUILDING "VICTORY" HIGHWAYS.

There is a movement on foot to build a paved "Victory Highway" from Salem to Portland. The idea is a good one just at this time, because it would be a monument that would be lasting in character and useful to the state at large.

We hope, however, that no movement of this kind will have the effect of changing present plans for the paving of this highway to the extent that the work will be delayed. It is now planned to begin paving upon it early in the spring, war conditions having held up the work now for a year or more.

The Capital Journal was not very enthusiastic over the road building plan adopted by the last legislature. We feared the large amount of money raised from bond issues, taxes and automobile licenses, together with the federal apportionment might cause an era of roadbuilding extravagance and that the people would not get their money's worth. We feared also that the proper type of permanent road had not been determined and that much money might be wasted, although the intentions of those handling the work might be good.

Frankly this was our feeling in the matter, much as we realized the benefits to be derived from the building of permanent roads throughout the state. The program was adopted by the people, however, and we now have an accumulation of several millions available for road building, which will be largely augmented in the next two or three years. It should be sufficient to build, in co-operation with the county work, hundreds of miles of permanent good roads, and keep an army of men employed during the war-re-adjustment period. Every permanent road built will in effect be a "victory highway" because had the war continued this work would have had to wait. We are furthermore convinced that the roadbuilding program is in excellent shape, since there has been now an opportunity for two years to study the methods of those in charge. The commission, we are confident, is made up of three of the best business men in the state, Simon Benson, W. L. Thompson and R. A. Booth, and State Highway Engineer Nunn has proven his ability and integrity in the work so far carried out. We believe these men are going to try to give the people of the state a dollar's worth of good roads for every dollar of their money expended upon them.

The state of Oregon, therefore, has cause to look forward to a period of road construction that will place us well in the front rank, and advance the development of our resources very materially.

If Wm. H. Taft takes the presidency of the big baseball leagues, one of our most vital problems will be solved. We'll know what to do with our ex-presidents; and yet if Teddy should become a league president he might want also to be official scorer, umpire, pitcher and catcher, as well as seizing the opportunity to gather in a few of the laurels heretofore bestowed upon Tyrus Cobb in the outfield. On second thought we can see serious complications ahead.

Sugar conservation came pretty near putting the sugar planters out of business by destroying their market but it kept a good many people in salaried jobs throughout the country. All the food conservation now and most of the special war operations in every line now are kept up by those who want to continue drawing salaries for which they perform little or no labor.

Former Kaiser Wilhelm denies that he caused the war. But if Germany had won he would have appropriated all the glory of the achievement just the same.

Marshal Foch would seem the most notable, as well as eligible, candidate for the Nobel peace prize at this time.

Americans have invaded and are holding Prussian soil. And the Yankees will not commit a single depredation or robbery, plunder or enslave the inhabitants.

The kaiser seems to have absconded instead of abdicating.

AMERICA AT THE PEACE TABLE.

President Wilson's reported intention of submitting his peace program to the American people before he leaves the country meets with unanimous approval. It goes without saying that the nation should know as clearly as possible beforehand the principles and program to which it is likely to be committed at the peace conference.

There is, of course, no great danger of misunderstanding between the American public and the American delegation that will speak for it at the conference. The purposes for which we have fought the war and the ideals which we hope to see written into the peace treaties and the world plans for the future are so well known that no genuinely representative American diplomat could go far wrong.

So far as the president himself is concerned, he owes his commanding position in the inter-allied councils to the fact that he is regarded as the authentic spokesman of the American people. His addresses and writings since we entered the war are accepted, here and abroad, as a settled exposition of our ideas and aims. As long as the president and his colleagues at the peace meeting hold true to them, the people at home will be content. But this is the day of open diplomacy. Nothing must be done in the dark.

Moreover, there are new questions continually arising. There are occasions for modifications of plans. There are practical difficulties to meet, in persuading our foreign partners in this business to see things as we do. There are calls for compromise. President and public alike must be sure that no essential thing be compromised, so far as the United States has power to put it through without danger to the cordial feeling now existing between us and our allies.

To this end, president and public must thoroughly understand one another. If they do, the president can go to the peace table with all the more authority, knowing and making clear to all that he has a united nation behind him.

THE WIFE
By Jane Phelps.

BRIAN IS CONVINCED AMERICA WILL HAVE TO FIGHT.
CHAPTER XCIX.
As soon as Brian came in, Ruth saw he was laboring under some unusual excitement. He kissed her in an absent minded way, showing, however, none of the resentment of the morning. He paid no attention to the roses or to the card which he could not avoid seeing it. "What is it, Brian? You act as if something had happened."
"Read that paper and see what has happened! I should say it was 'something'! Those damn Germans have sunk the Lusitania! Hundreds of people drowned; some of the most prominent people in America. Just read that list of names and see what sort of people have gone to the bottom of the sea, because we trusted those Germans to deal fairly with a neutral nation—trusting them too long."
"Oh, this is horrible! How do they do it? How many may be saved?"
"Not many, I'm afraid. We'll hear more about it in the morning."
"See the flowers and the nice note they sent to the store, Brian. I had such a headache I called them up after you went and told them I should remain at home today."
"Is it better?" absent scanning the note.
"Yes, almost gone." In fact it was gone. She had forgotten it from the moment she had read the news of the sinking of the liner.
"That's good!"
"They are awfully nice to me, Brian."
"It may be a good thing that you can work," he said grimly. "This will mean war, and war at once unless I am mistaken. Those Germans have been too leniently treated by the United States. They have done many things which no other nation would have so quietly endured."
"But it would take years to get ready."
"Don't fool yourself! When little old Uncle Sam gets his back up he does things in a hurry. We haven't any trained fighters; but we have patriotic men who will fight even though they are in our favor; the Yank is mighty quick to learn. He doesn't have to have forty years training to teach him to fight for democracy. The Germans have had it; but if we go in—and we must—we'll lick them as sure as shooting! Come on in and let's eat. Then if your head is better, we will walk down to the square and see if there is any further news."
Ruth was horrified at the terrible disaster. But a little feeling of joy at Brian's forgetfulness of his jealousy of the morning was also in her heart. They could talk of nothing else through dinner but of the prominent people who might have lost their lives; and of the unwarsted cruelty of the act.
After dinner they went out immediately. The first reports were confirmed, and many other names added to the list of those who, most likely, would be found missing.
There was a large and horror-stricken crowd about the bulletin board, and for the first time many men, and women both, talked in whispers of what it would mean to them, to their country. Was this insult to be swallowed; this horrible act condoned?

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You will know Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets by their olive color. 10c and 25c boxes. All druggists.

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Open Forum
DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM

Monmouth, Or., Nov. 29, 1918.
Editor Capital Journal: I am sorry to see that you are taking the attitude you are against Socialism. Referring to your recent editorials in regard to the protest meeting held in Madison Square Garden Monday night I note that you heartily approve the action taken by the soldiers and sailors in breaking up the meeting, even to battering down the doors, and man-handling women and children. According to the report of this meeting published in your own paper, there was no disorder or violence of any kind except that displayed by the soldiers who tried to break up the meeting. The only offense of these people it seems was that they wore red buttons, or waved red flags; for this they were arrested. The red flag is the Socialist banner and stands for the highest principles conceivable, the principles for which Jesus Christ himself gave up his life. Since then, all down thru the centuries, countless others whose hearts have bled for the poor and the oppressed, have become willing martyrs. The red flag is the emblem of brotherhood, nothing more, and the millions who stand ready to rally to its standard are the ones who advocate peace and prosperity for all and have a constructive program which when fully applied will bring it about.
Socialism and anarchy have nothing in common, for the first stands for law and order while the last, as I understand it, stands for absence of law or government. For your own enlightenment and to avoid disseminating misinformation to your readers, I suggest that the editor look up the various definitions of Socialism in the Century or Webster's dictionary, Encyclopedia Britannica or any authoritative source.

Your condemnation of anarchists and your approval of the action taken by these soldiers which was merely mob violence in the instance referred to, do not go well together. I will grant you that some former leaders of the Socialist party have made mistakes, the principal one being that of adhering to pacifist propaganda after our country had been forced into this world war, when they should have put their shoulders to the wheel and done their part to help win for democracy. If Thomas J. Mooney is guilty of the crime for which he is sentenced to be hanged, every true Socialist will rejoice in his punishment. Evidently, though, there are two sides to the case and this meeting was held in protest against a believed injustice. Socialism stands for justice to all and special privilege to none. Any thinking person can see by the "handwriting on the wall" that things are going to be different in our own as well as in European countries. Our boys have gone forth to meet the most deadly foe of human liberty, anarchy; they have fought, bled and died that freedom and justice may be enjoyed by all the people of the earth. President Wilson and other great men are just about to gather for the purpose of forming a league of nations (a paramount issue of Socialism) so that international differences may be properly adjusted and peace and good will may reign throughout the world. Is this dearly earned liberty to be hampered and retarded by a misinformed or paid press, or by ultra radicals on either side? Should we rather not look at the questions in a sane and sensible way, ascertaining the facts that are already before us and strive to adjust peacefully, before it is too late, the economic problems that confront us. No democracy is complete unless it includes industrial democracy. When you say that socialistic leaders never engage in any honest employment you cast a reflection on your own occupation for the greater number of the real leaders have been writers. If we

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Help, "Old Santa"
in preparing a
Very Merry Christmas
This year for everybody. This ought to be the Happiest Christmas in all ages the world over, and nothing is nicer to give as a token of our Happiness and kindly regard than a pair of our fine
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