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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

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VALUE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.

There has been much criticism of President Wilson's trip to Europe. Many persons profess to believe that the trip was undertaken mainly for junketing purposes and the notoriety that would attend it.

These views are narrow and ascribes to the president a littleness that no man capable of being a creditable chief executive of the nation would exhibit in any circumstances. In this particular case the president, being already world-famous because of the part he has played in the war, could hope for no added distinction or honor.

More and more the necessity for his trip abroad is being recognized. The American and European views of war and peace treaties differ from ours, just as our ideas and standards in many other things differ. The United States entered the war for the maintenance and establishment of certain principles throughout the world—terse stated by the president, to make the world safe for democracy.

Now that the war is won we want a just and lasting peace that will be fair even to the conquered enemy. To be consistent and honorable our position must be maintained and recognized by the world, so that our brave boys who died in battle and camp will not have spilled their blood in vain.

President Wilson is a great diplomat. He has shown that from the time he first entered public life, and as governor of New Jersey bent a boss-ridden legislature to his own will with no weapon but that of personal persuasion. Time and again congress has followed his instructions without being clubbed into submission after the Rooseveltian method.

Already the correspondents tell us that the president of France and other notables of Europe are in complete accord with the Wilson view, and that there is accumulating evidence that harmony will prevail around the peace table. If Mr. Wilson only prevents a disgraceful squabble among the victors over the spoils of war his trip will not have been in vain.

It is natural that there should be great receptions tendered the chief executive of this country, and that there will be pomp and ceremony and display. The grateful people across the ocean would be grievously disappointed were these evidences of honor and affection prohibited; as Americans, citizens of the youngest of the great powers of the world, we ought to feel a personal gratification in these pleasant ceremonies. Europe is seeking to show its regard for our country when it honors our president as no crowned ruler was ever honored in all the history of the past.

IT WAS A PITIABLE SIGHT.

Admiral Beatty, who has just returned to this coun-

RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

AT LAST.

So long we sighed for "peace on aeth", the kind that Christmas brings, but could not get a nickel's worth, because of batty kings; for four long years they tried, the goats, to force their kultur down our throats; they sprung their mines and murder boats, and other deadly things. "Good will to men" was out of date, all over sea and land; and in its place we had the hate that bore a German brand; the world was full of battle smoke, of blood and wounds and maddened folk, and men forgot to laugh and joke, and kindness was canned. Now comes the time of peace on earth, the clouds are blown away; so let us, with exceeding mirth, observe the Christmas Day; for He whose birth we celebrate has brought us triumph over hate and humbled kings who once were great, and torn them from their prey. Though sorrow grimly plants its stakes, and lingers for a night, joy cometh when the morning breaks, as seers and prophets write; this is the morn of happy times, the end of tyrants and their crimes, so let us make the Christmas chimes ring out a world's delight.

try says the surrender of the German high fleet was a pitiful thing—and it was. Contrast it with the action of the decrepit old Spanish squadron of Cuba, whose commander bravely refused to strike his flag, but preferred to see his vessels sink with the Spanish ensign still flying. The allied commanders expected the German fleet to make a dash for the open seas when the hour of national collapse came, and as naval men they were disappointed in that an enemy who fights to the last in the face of hopeless disaster is always respected by his conquerors.

The action of the Germans made futile the protest of Admiral Von Reuter, against the striking of his flag during the ceremony of the surrender. At that time the admiral said:

"I esteem it unjustifiable, and contrary to international custom," he says, "to order the striking of flags on German ships. Moreover, in my opinion, the order to strike the flag was not in keeping with the idea of chivalry between two honorable opponents."

The protest was unheeded because the feeling of a soldier or a sailor who prefers surrender to a finish fight gets scant consideration at the hands of men who are disappointed in his courage. In this case there were not two honorable opponents, and that is why the German flag had to come down.

As Admiral Beatty says, it was a pitiable sight.

INDEMNITIES OF WAR.

To Americans, that \$120,000,000,000 which Lloyd-George says the allies will demand of Germany is of little more than academic interest. We are not directly concerned with it because we expect no share of it, save perhaps the few millions necessary to cover the cost of American lives and property illegally destroyed by German submarines.

Our allies frankly announce their intention, or at least their desire, to make Germany pay the "whole cost of the war." We cannot blame them for that. They were the innocent victims of the great German military conspiracy. They suffered incomparably more than we. They are the best judges of the matter.

The expense of settling our own quarrel with Germany is estimated at about \$20,000,000. It will amount to more in the end, no doubt, but that sum will cover the direct and immediate cost of the job. There is no expectation that our peace delegates will demand that sum, or any part of it, as a compensatory indemnity. Our government expressly disclaimed and renounced the hope of indemnity when we entered the war, and the public has acquiesced. We regard the \$20,000,000,000 as partly a philanthropic contribution to mankind, and partly as insurance against any German peril that otherwise would have menaced our future.

As for Great Britain, France, Belgium and the other victims of German perfidy and violence, the American view is that they deserve all the damages they can collect without absolutely destroying Germany or harming themselves in the process. The most they can possibly obtain will not be as much as they ought to have.

After all, most of us are Americans in this country when the final test comes, regardless of racial descent or religious creed. For instance there have been times when Mormonism has been denounced as a menace to our nation, and yet Brigadier General R. W. Young, a grandson of Brigham Young, returns home with a splendid record of heroic achievements on the battlefields of France. The man who is ready to face bullets and bayonets to uphold the honor of his country is entitled to the right to worship God after the dictates of his own conscience, because that is one of the things democracy stands for.

The Red Cross Christmas roll call is falling down in Oregon. The people generally are not responding to the very reasonable call of a dollar apiece for the completion of the war work of this great organization. The managers of the campaign are disappointed—every friend of humanity is disappointed—that the response has not been more spontaneous. It is up to the individual conscience now—have you done your duty? Have you renewed your membership in the Red Cross and invested one dollar in the greatest work for humanity ever undertaken since the world began?

The Commercial club will elect officers shortly after the beginning of the year, and care should be taken to select men who will give the proper time and attention to the work. The coming year should be one of real progress for Salem and the Commercial club should be made more of a factor in our growth and civic advancement than ever before. There are big things ahead for the Capital City if our people are but awake to their opportunities.

Portland is banqueting and making a hero of Colonel Disque, head of the spruce fiaco in Oregon. The aircraft board was the one around which most of the scandal pertaining to war operations centered, and the spruce organization in the Northwest was a joke among real lumbermen. But Colonel Disque made his headquarters at Portland and spent money like a regular Coal Oil Johnny—and naturally Portland owes him a banquet.

CAPITAL JOURNAL WANT ADS BRING YOU RESULTS

THE WIFE

By Jane Phelps.

BRIAN LEAVES RUTH. SHE IS HEARTBROKEN.

CHAPTER CXVI.

Ruth was glad of the interruption, and hurried Brian out to the table where in the incredibly short time given her, Rachel had managed a tasty supper.

"Aren't you going to have some too?" Brian asked, his mouth full.

"No—dear—I'm not a bit hungry. I had my dinner rather late."

"Well, I had mine early, and a good one too; but I am as hungry as a bear. I wish I could be sure of someone like Rachel to cook my meals for me for the next few months. I expect it will be some change, all right. But what's the odds? Nothing costs but just one thing! and that is liking the Germans to a standstill. And we'll do it too, Ruth, you see if we don't! Give me another cup of coffee, please. Rachel makes dandy coffee. My, I must hurry!" He had again looked at his watch.

Ruth left the room a moment to wipe her eyes, and choke back the sobs rising in her throat. When she returned Brian said:

"Please put that picture of yourself in my bag, Ruth. The one you had taken before we were married. Give me one of the latter ones too; but you know I always thought that a perfect picture of you. I don't believe anyone of the boys will have a handsome wife to show."

"Do you REALLY want to take my picture, Brian?" she tried to speak carelessly, but failed. Her voice was tense, and rather hard. "I did not think you would care to take it."

"Not care to take it!" a note of wonder in his voice, "Why should you say that? There's nothing else I care a whoop about taking, but that."

Now Ruth's tears DID fall. She rushed from the room, while she wrapped the pictures Brian wanted, she again exercised her self control to the extent that, when he came in, he did not notice that, for just a moment or two, her emotion had gripped her. Had he known that it had been all she could do to keep from screaming, he would have been utterly at a loss to account for such extreme feeling on her part.

His supper finished, he came in to fasten his bags. That done, he looked at his watch for the third time.

"Well, I must be off, Ruth," he said, drawing her into his arms. "Be good to yourself, dear. If I didn't know what a fine little business woman you were I should feel guilty to leave you. But you are worth two of me when it comes to making money, so I know you will not suffer."

"Money isn't everything, Brian. I shall be very lonely." She spoke from the shelter of his arms.

"Yes—but have you, aunt up. Now that I shall be away, she will enjoy herself better. The old dame never has forgiven me for marrying you. I don't blame her for that, but she will be glad to have me away."

"I don't want her or anybody! I only want you," Ruth had given way at last. Her body shook with sobs and her tears fell without thought of staying them.

"But dear, I shall come back soon and with my belt hung with Hun scalps I hope." Brian tried to joke, but his own voice sounded full of tears. And he wrapped his arms more closely about Ruth.

"But maybe you won't—come home."

"Oh, yes I shall. A bad egg you know, and also only the good die young. And whatever I have been fumed for, it never has been goodness. So don't order widow's weeds expecting any chance to wear them. I only hope I may do what it is up to me to do." His voice suddenly grown grave, "and then it doesn't really make any difference what happens, does it?"

"I suppose not—but it is hard, Brian, awfully hard. Harder than you know," she reiterated.

"Yes—it is always easier to be the one to go," then: "but cheer up, Ruth. We'll have those Huns licked before you know it. I must go now. I'll run out and say good bye to Rachel and tell her to take good care of you; although there's no reason for it, as she almost worships you. She isn't the only one either."

Somewhat, that last sentence warmed Ruth's heart; and when he came back she had put all thought of the overhead telephone conversation from her mind, and was only absorbed in duty of sending Brian away with a smile—which she managed to do, although it was an effort.

"I'll write every chance I get," he had said.

"I'll send you a letter every steam-er," she replied.

"I'll be watching for them. Good-bye darling!" and he was gone. For a long time she sat by the window, where she had watched him go down the street, with long, swinging stride. She wondered casually if she wouldn't have felt happier if he had planned for her a little. Of course it was nice to be that capable, but—

(Monday—Ruth Asks Her Aunt To Visit Her.)

A heavy freshet in the Cowitz river this week swept many million feet of logs and timber past the booms at Kelso.

Lewis county is planning a structure at Chehalis for soldiers and sailors to cost \$200,000.

STOCK RAISING IS ON INCREASE IN OREGON

Report Of County Assessor Shows Large Valuation Increases Also.

When the county assessors made their assessments of property this year for taxation there were 1,510,833 sheep and goats in the state, which were assessed at \$13,460,014, according to reports compiled by the state tax commission. This is an increase over last year, when the number of sheep and goats reached \$1,416,112 and were assessed at \$8,727,106.

Hogs assessed this year number 127,745, with an assessed value of \$1,117,612, while a year ago the total number was 100,877, with an assessed value of \$678,541.

There were 669,876 head of cattle assessed at \$21,757,147 this year, as against 625,034 assessed at \$19,266,523 last year.

This year's reports show 10,662,397 acres of tillable land assessed at \$230,418,168; 4,240,516 acres of timber lands assessed at \$68,861,617; improvements on deeded lands assessed at \$27,145,367 town and city lots assessed at \$218,553,963; improvements on town and city lots, \$90,835,134; merchandise and stocks, \$39,804,085; money, notes and accounts \$23,551,549.

THE LARGE MINORITY IN THE LEGISLATURE

(LaGrande Daily Observer.)

Seymour Jones of Marion county has been chosen speaker of the next house of representatives. That is, he has been so considered by a majority of the members of the house and therefore he will be the speaker. He defeated Denton Burdick of Eastern Oregon, and the whole legislative bunch from east of the mountains is left in the minority for the next session. Sometimes this is fatal to legislation for a strong minority will clash with the majority until there is nothing to the session but clash. This year it is not believed such a condition will follow, even though the minority is very large and healthy. It is thought that Speaker Jones will show his appreciation of the entire state to a point where he will at least give suitable recognition to the boys from east of the mountains though they did not support him for speaker.

The Evening Observer mentions this now to impress upon any one who may have influence with any member of the next legislature to urge harmony and single purpose of the body. There is much to do and the Willamette valley boys, although in a big working majority, will find that Eastern Oregon is of some consequence and is of great help if they will but take off the big gods in favor of the valley and let the bunch grass fellows play on an even break.

Delinquency Increases

"Delinquency is increasing; extravagant expenditure of high wages is creating irresponsible habits; parental control is relaxing, and is resolving itself into a decided menace. There have been more runaway boys than for many years. They are attracted to the city by the reports of high wages and we find an army of youthful hooligans traveling the coast from Vancouver south—stopping in each city only long enough to become dissatisfied with its restrictions.

The remedies to be applied are stricter regulation through child labor laws, a higher standard of scholarship before the child is allowed to leave school, a deeper sense of the parental responsibility established through more frequent prosecutions for parental delinquency on the part of juvenile court authorities, and a recognition of the ruinous policy now being followed by many employers—that of outbidding each other in wages."

Recommends Ruling

The report recommends that the industrial welfare commission make a ruling which will prohibit night work for boys up to 18 years old. It points out that many high school boys attend school during the day and worked in the shipyards until 12:30 at night.

"This double duty," says the report, "may not be hard on a grown man—although there are but few who carry it—but for the growing boy, not yet through the adolescent period, it is little short of suicide. Night work is hard enough for adults—it is ruinous for children and should be stopped if we have any thought for their future health and working power. Some parents seem to have gone money crazy and children are being sacrificed to the opportunity which the war industry has brought."

In the interest of this department in its work of protection of the working child, we ask an advance of the school qualification to the eighth grade under the age of 16, before a child is eligible for a permit."

Salem-Jefferson Road Should Be Improved

(Jefferson Review.)

Salem merchants seem anxious to get a paved road to Portland and when they get it they will find much of their trade will be diverted to the metropolis. Not one of them seems to think the patronage of this section worth looking after, and the road from Jefferson to Salem is the worst in the country. The Capital Journal is the only Salem institution that seems to realize that the south end of the county is entitled to some road improvement. Linn county is awake to her interests and will pave from this city to Albany and will get the Jefferson trade that goes away from home; Salem trade will go to Portland and Salem merchants will lose both "goats and comin'."

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The Journal Job Department will print you anything in the stationery line—do it right and save you real money.
