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ORGANIZATION FOR TOWN IMPROVEMENT

THE LIFE OF ARMY CAMPS

As soon as our new volunteer or conscripted armies are mobilized the problem comes up of the kind of life they are going to live in camps. The first thing to be looked out for is their physical comfort. They need good food, well cooked, and plenty of it.

At the time of the Spanish war there were bbitter complaints of the food served to soldier boys. Their hardships must have made it difficult for many years to secure enlistments. On the Mexican border there has been much less complaint. The absence of scandal indicates that the boys were pretty well fed. The big armies now to be raised will present a greater problem for the quartermaster than was ever handled before. It will take a high range of executive ability to provide a wholesome and appetizing table for so many men.

It will pay to make the boys comfortable. The less their hardships, the more willingly they will do their bit. Patriotism thrives under difficulties, if it means raw food and lumpy beds.

The boys need pleasant recreations and some home like surroundings. They will be put through some stirring physical stunts, giving them perhaps all the athletics they need. It may not be necessary to organize baseball and football leagues to work off steam. But when the day's work is over, they need pleasant recreation tents where they can meet and form friendships and gain refreshment for another day. A good line of movie shows would do a lot to relieve the tedium of this hard working life.

Liquor and women always form a problem in connection with army camps and will need to be dealt with rigorously. If these boys are to be worthy soldiers of Uncle Sam, physically able to meet the tests of army life, the people who have money to make by encouraging vices must be kept at a distance. The churches and Young Men's Christian Associations have a great chance to provide wholesome facilities here for recreation, so that the boys will not be driven by dullness to seek diversion in harmful ways.

ORGANIZATION FOR TOWN IMPROVEMENT, NO. 3.

An illustration of the difference between personality and machinery in town improvement work was given a few years ago in a well known town. A leading citizen devised what on the face of it was the most perfectly arranged proposition for civic betterment. It was called the Federated Societies. Every church, fraternal organization, etc., was to send a delegate to a central body.

The central body would discuss all town improvement matters, and arrange for action through an executive committee. Then it was the function of the delegates to report progress to their several societies. In that way it was believed that public sentiment favorable to improvement projects would be created in every local organization.

It was a great scheme and it worked beautifully--for about one year. Some excellent things were accomplished. Unfortunately the health of the man who organized the plan failed and soon after he died. Then the whole thing slumped. Dozens of people had been very much interested, had attended meetings regularly, and given support and influence. But it took one powerful pushing force to make the thing live. It does seem a shame that there are so many learners, that public work is thus left to a few while the rest sit around and approve but do nothing.

In the long run betterment projects can't succeed unless they have a good number of workers behind them. The few who do the pushing will sooner or later die or move away or find other calls on their time. There must be a more general spirit of community service. There must be more people who are willing to serve on committees, not merely in an ornamental way. They must be willing to assume responsibility for certain tasks and put them through to a finish.

After wondering why the farmer makes such a mess of handling his tract of a hundred or more acres, the average man decides that he will not have time to cultivate a patch 10 yards square in the back yard.

The fighting powers can't always kill off any women and children, but ability to sink a hospital ship gives them lots of comfort.

Another thing occuring on correct schedule time is the accidental burning of all these grain elevators.

BUYING THE NEW BONDS

The United States government is about to begin the biggest financial undertaking of the world's financial history. That is to raise in a hurry the sum of $7,000,000 on its own bonds. The unanimity with which the loan bill passed Congress demonstrates that it will encounter no open opposition. But there is always the selfishness and lethargy of individuals to be reckoned with.

Some people will say that the government must expect to pay as much interest as the private investor and that they will not accept a beggarly 3 1—2 per cent, when they can get good five per cent bonds or stocks that are still more profitable.

Yet these people may later on wish that they had taken hold to help. It is the testimony of the nations with which we have allied ourselves, that one of their first needs is to float their loans at a moderate rate of interest. Their previous bonds have been selling somewhere near a six per cent basis. The Russian government, in its present uncertain condition, would in all probability not be able to sell its bonds at so favorable a rate as six per cent.

That piles up a crushing burden of interest for the people of these countries to pay. It strengthens the appeal of all the plotters and the pacifist elements that are working to get Russia and other countries to conclude a separate peace. If the alliance should break up it would leave Uncle Sam holding the bag.

Our best policy is to sacrifice a little interest money and help these nations at the earliest possible moment by lending them money at a decent rate. It may save us some terrible war costs later on. Every dollar spent in supplying munitions to a Russian soldier may save us spending five dollars to defend our own coasts and to send an army to the French trenches.

WHY ENLIST?

"Why should I give up a good job in the country and go to war for 50 cents a days?"

The about illuminating remark was overheard in a railroad train the other day. Apparently the fellow was not worrying so much about the hazards of war. One would infer that if the government would pay him something more than the $2.50 per that he might be earning out in the fields, he would see the thing in a quite different light. Perhaps he would recognize that that is just about what his neck is worth

In contrast to this one sees the flower of our youth in colleges and schools assuming cheerfully the hazards of battle. It is the pathetic side of war, that while sluggards and slackers would stop a bullet just as well as anyone, it has to be the men of initiative and courage and decision who are subjected to this futile waste.

There are some men so constituted that they do not feel under obligation to their country. The pay envelope is their flag. If an enemy country offered them better wages, they would cheerfully go there--if they could get there without harm to their precious skins.

Such men may have great hulking bodies, but the soul seems left out. Of course people of this kind bring their own peculiar punishment on themselves. They are psychologically constituted without the sentiment of loyalty. They may have animal strength and are able to dig ditches or hoe crops. They will not starve as their hunger drives them into the corn field. But this lack of loyalty will not show itself merely in shirking their duty to their country. It will also be apparent in their relations with their employers and their home community. A disloyal worker is of little use in any gang. If hard times come, they may wish they had taken Uncle Sam's meager 50 cents a day and the board and clothes that go with it.

SUPERVISING GARDEN WORK

If the garden movement it to be something more than a producer of weeds and stunted vegetables, it must have some competent supervision. A lot of people who never before handled a spade or hoe have undertaken this summer to raise a back yard crop, and if left to themselves the result will be disappointing.

It calls not merely for work, but some knowledge of plant life, the insect pests that have to be fought, and the methods of fertilizing and cultivating. A good deal of back breaking work will be done that accomplishes little results, and at critical times the garden will be overlooked.

Under supervision a boy can produce a very respectable back yard product. He needs to feel the spur of competition and to look up to some authority over him whose approval he desires to obtain. Left to himself, the garden will suffer beside the attractions of the swimming hole. Every community where beginners are trying it out needs some regular inspector and adviser to help the novices produce a satisfactory result.

The price of gasoline keeps going up, but then anyone that owns an automobile is always supposed to have a lot of money lying around that he doesn't know what to do with.

The politicians who are trying to make political capital out of the war are fast creating political deficit.

The efficiency of the volunteer system of raising an army is proved by the great number of men who volunteer to let George do it.

THE PRICE RAISING HABIT

A provision dealer speaking a few days ago about the cost of living situation, gave some illustrations. Among them was the case of lettuce. A small bunch for which he said a year or two ago he would be getting five cents now is selling for 12 cents. The retailer was getting no more profit than he did formerly.

So far as he could see, it was not costing the grower of that lettuce any more to raise it than it did, save perhaps a small fraction more for coal. Possibly he had had to advance his labor costs a little. But the total advance could only be a small proportion of the advance in price. He simply had been smart enough to see that higher prices can be had on everything. Some one is making a lot of money.

It used to be thought that conditions like these are cured by the inexorable laws of supply and demand. If prices keep up, a lot more people are going to be drawn into the truck raising business. But it takes a lot of time for new equipment to be created, farm land to be made profitable, help to be trained. Meanwhile suffering and privation is caused, while producers and dealers tack on fancy figures.

These money makers should keep in mind the old fable about killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. If exorbitant prices are asked, there will be drastic state and government regulations of prices. Also there will be such a rush of people into the food producing business that it will again become unprofitable.

Of course the farmer has his side of the controversy. For years he was ground between the upper and nether millstone, and only until recently could he get profitable prices. That is another story to be considered later. But let him beware of asking prices that will overstimulate competition.

HEALTHY FEET

A club of 400 men at Orange, Tex have signed an agreement to go barefoot this summer. Occasionally one hears of people who discard shoes as a health and back to nature fad. The doctors seem to think it helps children with weak arches. Shoes are more or less unnatural. Few white men have the endurance in walking of the Indian of Colonial days, whose mocassins were the next thing to an unshod foot.

At the same time people could improve their pedestrian abilities and promote good foot conditions, if they would cut out silly shoe fashions. For years men have railed at women for wearing preposterous high heels that tip the foot forward and must upset the arrangement of bones and muscles.

Yet the majority of young men wear very pointed shoes nowadays. A well rounded toe, conforming to the shape of the foot, looks like an old man's style to them. They will pay the price of their smart looks some day in corns, bunions, and chiropodists bills.

LOST COUNTIES OF MARYLAND

How many of our public school students can locate Durham county, Maryland? "There is no such county," most of them would exclaim. Well, Maryland had a Durham county once, but William Penn finally got it away from Lord Baltimore. It occupied the northern part of what is now the State of Delaware.

Old Wocomico county, which was very different from the Wicomico county of today, occupied the southern part of Delaware. These counties were erected by the Maryland authorities in an effort to hold on to Delaware, but the Lord High Chancellor of England in 1750 decided against Maryland, and these two counties are now merely historical names. The present Wicomico county was erected by the Convention of 1867, which framed the present State Constitution.

There are other names of Maryland counties which cannot be found on the maps today, although the counties are still there. Providence, Patuxent and Potomac were names given by the Cromwell government of the State to Anne Arundel, Calvert and St. Mary's counties respectively, but these names only lasted from 1654 to 1658.

Every county of Maryland has its peculiar and individual history sometimes quite romantic. Their names are more attractive than those of some of the counties of the newer States, for instance, Deaf Smith county, Texas, and Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota. Because of the individuality and prominence of the Maryland counties the Constitution prohibits any division of them without a vote by the people living in the territory to be affected.

WANTS NO FOREIGN RECRUITING HERE

The proposition to permit recruiting officers of other countries to enter the United States and endeavor to enroll in their military service such of their citizens as may be living among us did not meet with the approval of Congressman Albert Johnson of the State of Washington. Such men are entering our own Army and Navy, and prefer to fight under our flag rather than that of the country they have left, and to permit foreign enlistment officers to work in this country would tend to destroy the fusing effect of the war on the foreign element in our citizenship. "I am pledged to support all measures that might tend to hasten the end of the war," declares Mr Johnson, "but this bill, if enacted, I am convinced will do more harm than good."

REPUBLICANS FURNISHED THE VOTES

Confronted by the slackers in his own party in Congress, the President was compelled to call upon the patriotism of the Republicans to give him the strength to get his selective conscription bill out of committee. It was the first time that he has deigned to consider the better half of the membership of the House. It will not be the last time, however; for the Democratic leopard cannot change his spots, and there will be many an occasion when prompt and necessary legislation can be secured only by Republican votes. We hope that the President will not continue to insist that the co-operation shall be altogether one-sided. The Republican votes which he will frequently need will be produced without reluctance. He should reciprocate by taking Republicans into his confidence, by giving them a chance to know his plans, by asking their advice as well as their votes, by giving them a share in the direction of the work of the war as well as a share in its labors.

NO NEED OF AUTOCRACY

The best kind of non-partisanship was shown in the Senate during the debate on the spy bill. Both Democrats and Republicans joined in condemning the measure as unnecessary and unjust, especially in its provisions relating to the newspapers of the country. The editors of the land, according to this precious piece of Democratic legislation, are classified with the German spies evidence of its willingness to suppress information which is real news in order to avoid the suspicion of giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Thus far it has needed only the hint from the administration to secure the elimination of news regarding the movement of ships and other items of like character and there is no reason to suppose that the editors will respond any more willingly to a bill like the spy bill. Whereas, if the administration thinks that any legislation is going to muzzle the press of America against an outcry in opposition to incometency in the carrying on of the war--well, in such case, the administration has another think coming.

AVOCATE OF UNIVERSAL TRAINING

Representative Norman J. Gould, of New Yorw, comes out strong for universal military training, believing it one of the most important factors of the present crisis, and one which should be adopted as a permanent national policy. The point made by several opponents of preparedness, that this country and its people might develop into a militarstic nation, is too absurd to be seriously considered", declares Mr. Gould, "as we have built our laws and institutions on the foundations prepared by the forefathers, whom we revere, and our long and glorious record has developed no trace of a desire for conquest." Gould recently offered a resolution in Conproviding for a bounty of $5,000 to the first crew that sent a German devilship to the place where liquid fire is a refreshing beverage.

WON A DEMOCRATIC STRONGHOLD

Congressmtn Mark R. Bacon, of Michian, enjoys the unique distinction of having celebrated only fifteen birthdays. He was born on February 29th. Although he now holds his first elective office, Representative in Congress, he is one of many Republicans who last fall suceeded in ousting Democrats who had represented their districts for several years and who had presumably intrenched themselves by a liberal use of the franking privilege and a generous distribution of political patronage. Mr. Bacon has retired from active participation in business affairs, and his friends know that he will give the same close attention to matters coming before Congress that brought him such marked success in the business world.

FOR RETIREMENT OF AGED FEDERAL EMPLOYES

A contributory retirement plan for employes of the Federal civil service has been prepared by Representative Porter H. Dale of Vermont, embodying all the best features of similar bills which have been heretofore introduced in the House. Mr. Dale has made provision for the retirement of all employes for age or disability on graduated annuities based on length of service. Contributions from employes' salaries of two per cent are to be made, to be returned upon separation from the service before reaching retirement age. Mr. Dale has given close study to the subject, and has evolved a bill which he hopes will meet the objections of all who have previously opposed such legislation.

WANTS TO RUN THINGS ALONE

President Wilson said that the United States has entered the war for democracy against autocracy, then asked for unlimited funds, unlimited authority, and an espionage law that would enable the Department of Justice to suppress freedom of speech and the press. He opposed the creation of a joint committee of the two houses of Congress on the conduct of the war. And all this in behalf of democracy against autocracy.

Spencer (W. Va.) Times - Monitor —Every self-respecting man or woman in the United States ought to snub known loafers for the duration of the war. We have no room in America for such time-servers while the life of the Nation hangs in the balance.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE RESCUE

One evening a little girl went to bring home the sheep, and when she arrived home she found that one was missing, and then she went out to look for that one.

After she had waited till nearly sundown she found a mother sheep with a new born lamb. She very gently lifted it her arms and carried it home. After she had made a nice straw bed she brought some old clothes and wrapped it up good so that it would keep warm.

After it became strong she grew very fond of the little lamb and she felt that she had done a kind deed when she had saved it.

Alfred Nusbaum
New Windsor School
5th Grade

FROM A WESTERN SCHOOL GIRL

Lear Gran Pa.

I received your letter a long time ago. And I guess you think I have for gotten you. Butl never can forget you and Gran Ma. If you want me I will come back and stay all the time. My teacher name is Miss Killey She is very nice. And the name of the school I go to is called the Monteih. I go to Sunday school and I don't know what my teachers name is yet. How is every body? Don't wait as long as I did to answer this letter.

from Martha

A LOST LESSION

"Now, children," said the teacher, "I have been talking about cultivating a kindly disposition, and I will now tell you a little story. Henry had a nice little dog, gentle as a lamb. He would not bark at the passers-by or at strange dogs, and would never bite. William's dog, on the contrary, was always fighting other dogs, or flying at the hens and cats, and several times he seized a cow. He barked at strangers. Now, boys, which dog would you like to own—Henry's or William's?" The answer came instantly, in one eager shout, "William's!"

SIGNALS

STRAWBERRY shortcake on counters,
Kidlets a dance on the walk,
Sages in confab on sunny park benches,
Lovers quite lost in their talk;
Rollicking tunes from street organ,
Open cars speeding so gay—
Careless of breezes and passenger's sneezes,
Sweet Springtime is coming this way!

Sodas with fragrant fruit flavors,
Push carts with pink lemonade,
Violets and pansies on corners,
Baby carts out on parade.
New hats to startle and dazzle,
Each girl in her Sunday best gown,
Her thoughts all a clutter of frivol and flutter
For Spring's coming down on the town!

Everyone's restless and eager,
With the stirring of green things that grow;
Don't talk of your hot waves and sunstroke,
There may yet be a flurry of snow!
But to-day there's the keen joy of living
'Neath a canopy bright with the sun;
You can see by the skies, if you open your eyes,
That Springtime has really begun-

Green gauze over slim silver birches,
Fleecy cloudlets adrift in the blue,
Golden crocus and jonquils a-blowing,
Then a nip in the air; Ah-achoo.
You are sure of one thing and one only,
While the mercury runs up and down,
With snowflakes and sunshine, capricious, delicious,
Young Spring's coming down on the town!

—Alice Lovett McCord.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Yes, this is he who ruled a world of men
As might some prophet of the elder day,
Brooding about the tempest and the fray
With deep-eyed thought and more than mortal ken,
A power was his beyond the touch of art
Or armed strength; his pure and mighty heart.

—Richard W. Gilder.

ETHER

The teacher thought it neccessary to explain about the ether. "What is it which fills all space," she asked, "which no wall or door or other substance can shut out?"

There was no answer ready but at last one girl raised her hand "I know, teacher. The smell of onions cooking."

—Mary F. Jenkins, California.

Fickle weather. Dr. Fahrney's Teething Syrup is always dependable. Doctors prescribe it. Write for free sample

THE UNCHANGEABLE JONES

At the age of sixteen Alice Jones wrought a poetic changes in her name. She signed herself E. Alysse Jones. Thus designated she entered a new school. The head mistress asked her name.

"Alysse Jones," she replied. "A-l-y-s-s-e."

"Thank you," said the teacher. "And how are you spelling Jones now?" —Argonaut.

WESTMINSTER, MD. DEC. 22,1916.

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