# AMERICAN SENTINEL

WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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### THE NATIONAL DISAPPOINTMENT

Practically everyone admits disappointment with the military achievements of our people during the year since war was declared. There is some ground for the remark that America's principal reputation in Europe is that of a flag waving nation. We were going to do great things, but we have not done them. We have put only a small army in France at the time of most terrible crisis.

An apologist for the shortcomings of our government remarked the other day, "well, what do you want. Our shores are not invaded and we live here in profound peace". That is much as if a fire department should be terribly slow in getting to a fire, and if on being reproached for its tardiness should say, "we are perfectly safe and our apparatus is unharmed".

The fact remains that we were looked upon for certain assistance in the defence of the world's security against a ruffianly barbarian, and that we have not been able to give that assistance. It hurts our nationhood not to achieve the things we set out to do. It will cost us more in the end than if we had shown an efficiency comparable to our boastings.

It is of little use to hold post mortems over our failure, except in so far as it may help us to avoid errors in future. A long step was taken in advance the other day when Charles M. Schwab was placed in charge of the shipbuilding work. There will be something doing in the shipyards now.

If the best business talent of the country had thus been placed at the head of affairs at the very beignning of the war , our military situation would be far better than it is now. We would have a real army in France. If only the Washington government can keep up the good work and get men like Mr. Schwab in positions of power and control, the Germans will soon find out we are more than a flag waving nation.

### WOMEN AND WAR WORK

One of the most serious questions arising in regard to women workers in new fields, is that of the lifting of heavy weights. In many cases it is found that women who have gone to work in such places as railroad yards, are compelled to lift 100 pounds or more at a time.

It has been said in defence of this practise, that women have shown long before this in such employment as laundry work, that they could lift these heavy weights. In laundries, for instance, they have to handle great baskets full of wet clothes, requiring great lifting ability.

To this it is replied that in laundry work only occasional lifting of this kind may be required, while in a railroad yard the work may be nearly continuous. For instance women have to wheel heavy barrows full of heavy metals and other products up and down inclined planes, and to load the same into freight cars or remove them to freight houses, and that such work is likely to be continuous.

A recent report on the physical condition of German working women states that many of them have been greatly injured by doing this class of work. In the munition plants they have to spend long periods lifting up and down heavy projectiles weighing as high as 80 pounds. They have to lift these articles breast high and hold them while they are clamped down. There is great complaint of abdominal trouble as the result of this form of effort.

The Executive Club controlling many of the Detroit, Mich. industries, have adopted the regulation that the weights which women should be expected to life constantly should be limited to 25 pounds. A law to that effect has been placed upon the statute books of a number of states. It will certainly be a poor policy to permit women to do themselves lasting physical injury, even if some temporary lack of labor is thereby supplied.

### BRINGING WORKERS AND JOB TOGETHER

The securing of competent help to operate our industries up to a few years ago was a matter left largely to individual producers.

Inability to get labor has terribly hampered our production. No producer would undertake any considerable enlargement of his undertakings unless he positively knew that he could get help for the necessary labor.

Getting the labor that is needed for an expanding industry is a most perplexing problem. A manager after long effort will get one department enlarged. Then he finds that several other departments either can not handle the bigger product of the enlarged department, or can supply it with the half finished material it needs. To get a growing industry supplied with an equivalent amount of help in all departments, takes longer than it seems likely to on paper.

Furthermore, unemployment in past years has been greatly increased by the differculty in bringing the worker and the job together. In some parts of the country there would be a demand for labor, while in others men would be idle.

In time of war the holes in our industrial system become apparent. Our shipbuilding and airplane programs have been terribly hampered for lack of help. Manufacturers should look farther ahead and not wait until they actually need men before taking steps to secure them.

The first and obvious thing is to advertise throughly in the local newspaper. The help secured from near at hand is most permanent and satisfactory. After the local field has been thoroughly canvassed, the producer must expect to look to national and state agencies for help. The United States employment service is doing excellent work, and is helping many industries to get help from a distance that otherwise would have been unable to expand their production.

### BASEBALL AS A COMMUNITY ASSET

There are some unimaginative people who regard baseball as a mere diversion for idle minds. They can not see how it serves any public cause.

Yet stop to think about it a moment. When you organize a good local team, you get people to working for something other than a selfish purpose. They are all interested in putting over one proposition. They are concerned to see that their town takes a high position in athletic competition. They play not so much to beat Smith, Jones and Robinson of the other team, as to uphold the honor of their own home town. That is community spirit. A fellow who has worked on that ought to be one who could be interested in other propositions to benefit the home town.

When athletic sports are handled in a clean way, they have an influence in developing character. If you put a team or a league in charge of a strong and fair minded governing body, any player with a tendency toward roughhouse or tricky play can be kept where he belongs. Ball playing on a basis of fair play and gentlemanly conduct is an eduucation in itself and a wonderful training in self control.

A home ball team promotes all local interests. It furnishes wholesome sport to active young fellows. They arn't getting into mischief when they are running their legs off stealing bases. Nor will they spend as much time loafing on the street corners and swapping cheap gossip.

A good ball team is a business asset. People like to live in a place where there is interest in athletic sport. They come in from miles around to see a good game. So maintaining a good local ball team is a sign of community life and movement. The game should be well patronized and backed up here in Westminster. We have plenty of good material.

### THE TRADE AT HOME CLUB

One of our successful business men was telling the other day about the way things had come around to him. "It seems to me", he said "that I owe a lot to the friendship of the people of this town. Almost every week I hear some one say, "I saw something just like that over in Westminster. But I always like to buy in your store so I thought I would wait until I could get in and see you".

The Trade at Home Club, trying to find out what this man had done to build up this loyal support, learned that he had made it his invariable practice to buy everything in his own town. He would often buy of his sharpest competitor. As a resul, every merchant on the street was that man's friend. All the clerks knew and liked him. All these people took pleasure in speaking well of his goods. He had a substantial success, and it was built on the Trade at Home principle. He got friends for his own enterprises, by backing up his townspeople in their enterprises.

### WAR PROBLEMS—DIVIDING GERMANY

Many of our people have entertained the hope that the German people would of their own accord rise in revolution, throw off the yoke of the military caste, and stop the war.

Yet the German people seem perfectly willing to profit by national piracy and treachery and brutality if they can. They need an object lesson that it pays to play fair.

President Wilson's utterances have had some effect inside Germany toward creating revolutionary sentiment . But the masses of the people are held in such strict bondage that it is almost impossible for the spirit of revolt to get the least organization or headway. The moment such a spirit shows itself, the leaders are clapped into jail or sent to death in the advanced trenches.

It will be very poor policy to place any reliance whatever on hopes of such a revolt in Germany. The more we think about that hope, the more we shall slacken our preparation for war to the finish. Nothing but force will beat anything into the German head.

Nevertheless our government should continue in the most quiet way possible, the endeavor to show the German people the truth about the war. It will not cause any such organized revolt as broke up Russia. But if the German manses can be shown how grossly and cruelly they have been deceived, they may lose some heart for the war, and a nation that loses heart is never a winner.

It should be posible to find some way of distributing literature in the German language and the various Austrian tongues throughout those empires. Something has been accomplished already. Revolutionary literature is reported as being freely circulated on the streets of Berlin. Our government should find the means and machinary for doing a great deal more of this work.

### NATIONAL EFFICIENCY

While good scholarship and good schools will give us a start toward national efficiency, we need ingrained in our daily life a habit of persistent thoroughness.

A man was speaking the other day of the reason why Jews are so successful as commercial travellers. He remarked that the native American, while a very bright and alert salesman, was often discouraged by a few rebuffs. He would lay himself out to please a prospective customer. But if the latter received him curtly and showed him no consideration, he was apt to get disgusted and give up.

Meanwhile, a Jew he said, might be almost kicked out of a store. Yet he remained good natured, and kept on visiting the place. By and by the "prespect" would be interested by the man's patience and persistence, and would give him an order.

Probably the reason why our business men have been so slow in developing South American trade is found right here. If on a few trials they did not succeed in suiting a foreign house, they would conclude that the latter's demands were unreasonable, and that it was no use fussing with them. Whereas the European export houses, in their slow and patient way, would keep on taking pains and trying to lacate just what the difficulty was, and to learn just what the concern wanted In the end their patience would be rewarded by building up a permanent trade.

Quickness and alertness of thought is a fundamental American characteristic. It is a splendid qualification for national success. Yet people who have that gift are often impatient with other people's ways of thinking and doing. We expect too much to get results right off quick. The great prizes of life do not come in that way. We need in our daily life more of a patient, dogged determination to win, even if it takes a very long time to achieve the end in view.

### THE WORKING WOMAN'S HOME

Now that a great army of working women have been taking men's jobs and entering new fields of labor, the question arises how the working woman is to establish a comfortable home for herself. Unless she lives in her own home, she has four alternatives: Boarding in private families, commercial boarding houses, housekeeping, and working girl's home.

The United States Department of Labor recently investigated the conditions under which working women are living in the District of Columbia, which must be somewhat typical of their experiences all over the country.

The department found that of the married women living away from their homes, about two thirds are attempting to keep house while holding their business positions. They thus gain some independence but many of them live on a nearly starvation diet. They return from work tired, and the temptation is strong to get along on light lunches.

Many women of course board in private families, an arrangement which according to conditions may be very satisfactory or very unsatisfactory.

Some better means for providing comfortable living will have to be thought out. Working girls homes, and such organization as the Young Women's Christian Association perhaps furnish the best solution. The work of caring for all these women away from home opens up the chance for a new industry. The expense should be reduced when a large number are cared for in one building. In such homes they should be able to get a good deal more substantial food than they would be able to provide for themselves. They find more pleasant social life than in the loneliness of an individual room or apartment.

### BUILDING 20,000 AIRPLANES

Here is the airplane situation as it developed at a recent conference of technical men. What is needed is a fighting plane in tremendous numbers. The way to get great numbers of anything is by machine work, turning out great quantities of standardized parts. The European machines are made with a great deal of hand labor. This produces a splendid quality of work, but it is a slow way of getting it done.

In this country we have plenty of skilled mechanics that could be trained to make them. But we have taken hundreds of thousands of that class of help for munition factories and ship work. Could we find enough of them to turn out airplane parts by hand as you would nails?

So our airplane makers went ahead on the theory that the parts must all be standardized so they could be turned out by machine in vast quantities. The delay is due to the fact that this standardization has taken longer than was expected. It does not prove that the idea was wrong.

It is generally conceded that the men in charge did not realize the bigness of the job, which has taken far too long. There needs to be a man at the head of the size of Mr. Schwab, who is to direct the shipbuilding.

It would have been better had this situation been frankly explained to the public. The delay in building the planes has seemed interminable. The crepe hangers have said we would never wake up and get into the war.

While production has been bitterly disappointng, yet it is not fair to assume that it is a failure and that our hopes of a preponderating air force are going to be disappointed. The eagerness with which the Kaiser is trying to end war before our forces get there, suggests that he knows what is going on.


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In order to meet the demand for increased production of foodstuffs, instructions have been issued in Canada permitting the free admission of teams, vehicles, implements, and other outfits which have been in use for farming purposes, conditional on their re-exportation prior to December 31, 1918.

Red Cross workers at line of communication canteens in France accompany American soldiers on shopping trips, to see that they receive correct change and otherwise advise them in their encounters with French shopkeepers.

80 per cent of army shoes too short? Too bad!


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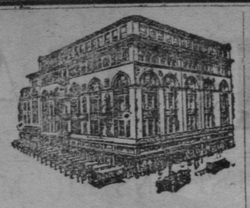

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### BARE BRANCH

Mr. and Mrs. Upton E. Myers spent Friday in Baltimore where they visited several places of interest.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Starner, of Pleasant Valley, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John H. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmar Wantz and three children were the guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wantz, on Sunday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Helwig and Misses Lydia, Mary and Cora Koontz, were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sheckles, of Canada Hill.

Mr. Harry Frock and family moved to Mr. R. M. Wantz's tenant house on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frock gave a birthday party in honor of their daughter Ruth on Sunday. Refreshments were served. Those present were: Misses Cora Koontz, Mabel Myers, Annie Senft, Mary and Elva Myers, Anna V. Myers, May Leatherwood, Rosella Geiman, Myere Myers and Master Sterling Frock.


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I invite the buying public to call and see our lines and get our prices before buying. I have no high salaried road men to pay. I give you the benefit of that.

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Good Horses, New Vehicles

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