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SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1918.

A BAN ON SHIPYARDS

Chairman Hurley has asked congress for legislation that will stop the building of new ship plants or the extension of old ones, without a special license from the United States shipping board. He wishes to eliminate interference with the government's program by speculators stirred to activity by the vision of big profits. His earnest desire is to stabilize the supply of labor and the market for materials. If more ways are required, he wishes them built under the supervision of the shipping board at points selected for obviously good reasons.

Mr. Hurley's arguments are unanswerable. A private plant constructed, for example, at some point within a few hundred miles of Wilmington and utilized to produce tonnage under a fabulously profitable foreign contract, would interfere seriously with the Wilmington output by inaugurating a competition for labor and supplies urgently needed by the Wilmington yards. Exactly this thing has happened in Washington and at other points where cutthroat rivalry for labor and steel has brought government war work temporarily to a standstill.

The shipping board selected Wilmington as a building place for ships because natural advantages made this community an ideal site for plants. As the ship construction activity grows, it will be to the advantage of the government to increase the number of concrete, steel and wood ship ways in Wilmington and other established producing centers and discourage the development of mushroom shipyards at points totally unsuitable for the building of vessels. Chairman Hurley's arguments are absolutely unanswerable and there is no reason to doubt that congress will grant his request.

AN ADVERTISING PERIL

Washington is keeping an eye on the business of advertising. Recently, when Brazilian coffee growers and American importers agreed to conduct a newspaper advertising campaign to exploit their product in the United States, the American government intervened with a veto. The coffee men were told that the activity they planned would result in a tremendously increased demand for their wares. The inevitable result would be a corresponding increase in the call for shipping, which could not be spared at present. When the tonnage situation improves, the government will withdraw its objection to the advertising of Brazilian coffee.

The moral is obvious. Intelligent advertising by purveyors with something to sell in newspapers that reach customers who are able to buy cannot fail to bring prompt results. New purchasers are arriving in Wilmington each week. Their requirements are imperative and varied. It is a genuine service to strangers within our gates to tell them where they may obtain the necessities of life. They will turn to newspaper columns for the information. Why not win these new customers and strengthen the allegiance of old patrons by displaying products, not only in store windows, but, through the columns of The Dispatch, in the homes of the people who should use them?

PROMPT DECISION WANTED

Nothing else appearing, the city council adopted the proper course in wiring the state corporation commission asking that decision upon the question of increasing fares on the Wilmington street railway be expedited, and that the petition be granted if an investigation merited. In other words, the case is put squarely up to the commission for a decision based upon the results of the data in its hands. The city authorities have no desire to contest the proposed increase, and are willing to leave it to the corporation commission.

If it be shown that the Tide Water company is unable to meet the demands upon it by reason of the coming of the shipyards without an increase in fare, the request should be granted. The company declares that it would be impossible for it to make the necessary extension of the lines, enlarge the power plant and secure new rolling stock without more revenue. It further declares that ready money at the usual sources is not available on the present showing of the company.

The question has been given a new angle by the demand of the representative of the shipping board that the Tide Water give an immediate answer as to whether it will be able to furnish the required service for the proposed enlargement of the shipyards. This answer must be made by Tuesday in order that the board may definitely develop its plans for increasing the size of the Wilmington yard. With this situation confronting it, city council could hardly have taken other action than it did.

There is individual opposition to the proposed raise in fares, and this probably has some basis, and were not the shipping board insistent for an immediate decision, as it is claimed, the matter could be delayed until thoroughly investigated. However, the corporation commission has much data before it and should be able to render its findings pretty much in accordance with the true facts. Council through the city attorney acted wisely in trying to develop the facts for the consideration of the commission.

Now the senate wants to know what the United States is doing to stabilize the value of the American dollar abroad. Mr. McAdoo tells the senate that he cannot furnish this information now, for fear that the information might reach our enemies. Wonder what the uppish bunch of investigators think of that? It matters little, however, as they can only fume and let their curiosity worry them.

A certain local board in classifying the registrants under the "work or fight" order, ran across the name of an undertaker. They were stumped. The question was passed up to General Crowder, and even the provost marshal general is puzzling over the nut that has been handed him to crack, as the registrant certainly cannot be said to be engaged in productive employment.

Congress seems to have found a most effective way of getting back at George Creel by adopting an appropriation system for paying George and his assistants. If the publicity artist meets the approval of congress, then he will be properly paid, but if he goes slumming too much, they will simply lop off a few thousand from his budget.

The Russian ambassador at Washington has ousted a Russian official in this country for making a pro-Bolshevik speech. The ambassador is perfectly safe in doing this so long as he is over here, but it's a safe bet that he will not spend his 1918 vacation in Russia.

Senator Tillman wants congress to take an early recess, and the reason he gives for wanting it is the most plausible of any of the many yet advanced by homesick congressmen. The senator says he wants to go home and eat watermelon picked fresh from the vine.

The United States Steel corporation has just paid into the United States treasury the sum of \$233,465,000 as its federal income and excess income tax. How the poor corporations are forced to dig up! To think of it is to weep.

The Kaiser is reported as having visions of seeing Paris soon. If he will only keep fooling around the western front a little longer his visions will come true, but not exactly the way he would have them.

Senator Hi Johnson wants a statement of fact as why General Wood is not to see active service on the fighting line. He had better go slow, as he might be given information that would be unpleasant to hear.

There is one disadvantage in according honors to a foreigner. Some day your country and his may become involved in war and the donors will have to take back all of those things.

The conscientious objector declares against fighting for the United States, thereby indirectly giving aid to the enemy. That must be a badly warped conscience some people lay claim to.

If Hindenburg is very much disappointed over his failure to keep his dinner appointment in Paris, he might go back to Berlin and in a short while see Parisians dining there.

The Washington Post says that since all of the railroad presidents have been removed, the next in line among the officials are fearful lest McAdoo starts a vice crusade.

Since recalling all of the honorary degrees conferred upon Bernstorff, American colleges have a bountiful supply to hand out to deserving Americans.

The Bulgarian premier has resigned. Probably the result of grief over the realization that he will never be able to sit at the victor's end of the peace council table.

The war board must have been in an ironical mood when it declared an ironical mood when it declared poker chips nonessential, and declined to include playing cards in the same list.

Congressman Kitchin is of the expressed opinion that experts on government revenue show their expertise chiefly in suggesting how to tax some one else.

The war has not curtailed the number of conventions to be held at Wrightsville this year, eleven gatherings being booked for the season.

Chicago has started a crusade against bad songs. Wish somebody would conduct a nation-wide crusade against bad singing.

It has been suggested that one method of economizing is to take the engine out of your automobile and run it on your wife's conversation.

The food administration has fixed the price of prunes. We hope that it is prohibitive to boarding house keepers.

Germany is said to be planning another big offensive. Most of the Hun plans are offensive to the rest of the world.

A headline in an exchange says "German Troops' Density Fatal." Sure. That is why they are called boches.

The Postal does not mind saying why it thinks the Bell people are not entitled to increased rates.

Wilmington promised to provide houses for the shipyard workers, and she is going to do it.

The Tobacco Situation

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, D. C., June 15.—The war has brought forth convincing proof of the high and permanent place that tobacco holds in modern life. While other neophytes, such as alcohol and opium, are being more and more restricted in use, tobacco has just been made a part of the American soldier's ration, as it has long been a part of the supplies of other armies; Germany, facing famine in some food materials, is still supplying not only her soldiers, but her civilian population, with tobacco; and there is talk in this country of appointing a tobacco administrator to stabilize production and regulate imports and exports.

Apparently tobacco is one of our necessities, and more so now than ever before; tobacco consumption has increased greatly since the war began. This is partly due to our prosperity, of which smoking has always been a most sensitive barometer, and partly to the tremendous demand for smokes on the part of the soldiers. No gift is more welcome in the trenches than that of smoking tobacco. This great increase in the use of tobacco has brought up again the oft-discussed but never settled question of how much harm smoking does to the health. It has been suggested that the affliction known as "soldier's heart" might be due to excessive cigarette smoking, and an inquiry into the matter has been made by the medical research committee. This inquiry, like nearly all others that have been made into the effects of smoking, gave somewhat inconclusive results. The medical men decided that excessive smoking of cigarettes is a contributory cause of heart trouble. A number of cigarette smokers were examined, and it was found that the only ones not affected to some extent by the practice were those who did not inhale. It was therefore determined to warn soldiers against inhaling and excessive smoking.

For the rest, endless evidence may be gathered for each side of the argument. Many eminent men, like Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, are firmly convinced that smoking is injurious, others are equally sure that it is not. The fact that insurance companies do not take into account smoking as a factor in longevity is cited as proof that it does not shorten life. The friends of tobacco are also fond of pointing out that men of high achievement of every age and kind, from Sir Walter Raleigh to Uncle Joe Cannon, have been smokers, and that many of these have been conspicuous examples of health and longevity as well as of ability.

The gist of the matter seems to be that smoking is an individual problem; each one must determine for himself how much he can indulge without harm to himself. It also seems to be clear that few men can face life without some kind of narcotic comforter—something to stimulate their dreams and make them forget their troubles. Man has never been free of this need. In all tribes and nations, in all ages, some narcotic has been used to soothe and to stimulate. Tobacco is perhaps the least harmful that can be chosen. Such, at least, seems to be the tact verdict of civilization. It is interesting to note that the tendency of civilized man is to use milder and milder forms of tobacco.

This seems to be not because he craves less nicotine, but because his pampered stomach and nerves will no longer support the heroic smokes and chews of earlier generations. Dr. W. N. Garner, the tobacco expert of the bureau of plant industry, has recently been making some researches into the early history of tobacco in this country, and has found that the tendency toward the use of milder leaf can be traced from the earliest times. Thus the Indians raised and smoked a tobacco which was no less than 10 per cent nicotine as against the two or three per cent of most modern tobacco. That pliant leaf with which the red warrior used to fill his calumet would floor a modern smoker at the first whiff. This Indian tobacco is no longer grown in this country, but is still used in some parts of Russia, where the primitive peasant has not yet acquired the sensibilities of civilization. Our own ancestors brought to Jamestown the milder brands of tobacco which were then grown in the West Indies, but even these colonists were much harder smokers than we are. They rolled the raw leaf into cigars and smoked it in pipes without the mollifying processes through which we put it. They also chewed enormous quantities of tobacco. The chew is now going out of fashion and promises to soon go out of existence. The pipe and the cigar just about hold their own. All of the increase is in the smoking of cigarettes, the mildest form in which tobacco can be used. The mild, bright tobacco of Virginia and the Carolinas are the ones that are growing in popularity, and they are used almost exclusively for cigarette making. The area in which they are grown spreads steadily and promises ultimately to reach to the Gulf.

About 1,400,000 acres of our arable soil is devoted to the raising of tobacco, and this is about one twentieth of all our farm lands. On this area we raise about a billion pounds of tobacco annually, of which in normal times we export about forty per cent. But we also import normally about 60,000,000 pounds. A good example of how habit dominates the tobacco trade is the fact that England takes nearly all of the "fire cured" tobaccos which are raised in the middle south of this country. This tobacco is smoked in pipes and makes a strong and stinging smoke. None of it is smoked in this country, and an American would find it unsmokeable. But back in colonial times, when England had first call on all the tobacco raised in her American colonies, Englishmen got used to the fire-cured tobacco, and that habit has not changed in three centuries. America is more self-sufficient in the matter of tobacco than are most civilized countries. All of our domestic cigarettes are made from the bright tobaccos of Virginia and the Carolinas, and the cheaper brands of so-called Turkish cigarettes are made largely of these tobaccos with just a touch of Turkish to give them flavor. Our popular mild pipe tobaccos are also a home product, being made of the Burley tobacco grown in Kentucky. Burley was originally used as a chewing tobacco only, but as chewing went out of fashion, American manufacturers invented the popular cut-plug pipe tobacco. The Burley was found to be a very smooth smoke, with no bite or sting. It was somewhat lacking in aroma, but this lack was partly made up by treating it with tonka bean and other "dressings." These Burley pipe tobaccos are the greatest modern success in tobacco manufacture, and the chief rivals of the "bright" tobacco. They are even invading the cigarette field.

We have always been dependent upon imports for our supplies of Turkish tobaccos (they are not Turkish at all, but are raised in Macedonia and the Levant); for cigar wrappers from Sumatra and Java in the Dutch East Indies; and for cigar filler from Cuba. The Cuban tobacco we are still able to get in normal quantities. Over the matters of wrappers from the East Indies a controversy has arisen. The shade grown tobaccos of New England also make good wrappers, and the wrappers does not affect the flavor of the cigar perceptibly. Inasmuch as all cargo space from the East Indies is needed for sugar, the New England growers are contending that importations of tobacco should be limited and the domestic wrappers used during the period of the war. This is opposed by the importers, who see a chance to get a very high for imported wrappers this year. The government has called in as umpire. It is probable that the importations of wrapper tobacco will be limited, and that even high grade cigars will have domestic wrappers in the future.

Turkish tobacco formerly comprised the largest part of our import, and now it is not coming in at all. This is the one kind of tobacco that we will soon lack entirely, unless we can raise it in this country. Somewhat similar conditions of soil and climate to those in Macedonia are found in some parts of our Southwest, and it may be that the war will bring into being a new tobacco industry in New Mexico and Arizona. But that is far in the future. Meantime, genuine Turkish and Egyptian cigarettes are doomed to grow more and more scarce. Americans will probably have to content themselves with American tobacco while the war lasts.

His Stenographer DALE DRUMMOND

CHAPTER XLIII. The Accident.

At Betty's exclamation, "He's hurt!" Carrie and I raced into the hall after her. Down at the foot of the stairs lay a huddled heap. Mrs. Fagin, bending over it, was wringing her hands, and moaning: "Sure and why did ye come back at all, at all! I that I was shut ye for this time." "What is it, Mrs. Fagin?" I asked. "What is it? Sure, it's Fagin himself, drunk!" her voice was full of loathing as she gave the prostrate figure a shove with her foot. "Oh, I thought someone was hurt," Betty gasped, the color returning to her face. "Hurts! no such luck, bad cess to him!" her apron to her eyes. "I thought you were a widow," Carrie said, looking at the inert form with lily concealed disgust. He was dirty, ragged and smelled of liquor. "No, dearie! the fool I was to marry him. But he come around with soft words, and I give in to him. But he's been gone five years this time and I that he was dead for sure—God forgive me!" "Shall you let him stay?" I asked. "Let him, is it? Glory be! he don't do us no harm," said Mrs. Fagin. He just stays till he drinks up all I've saved, and till he gets some new clothes because he shames me lookin' like that. I'll have him sent to the Island this time, see if I don't!" giving the bundle at her feet another vindictive shove.

Travellette By NIKSAH, Burgh Castle.

Burgh Castle is at first sight a typical Suffolk village, with church, rectory and substantial farm houses. But as you become acquainted with Burgh Castle, you find that it has historic associations and that it is proud of them. If you would stroll down a certain peaceful lane, you come upon a series of broken, vine clad walls rising from a grassy field. It is the remnant of a Roman camp, and Burgh Castle's most priceless possession.

Eighteen hundred years ago Rome built here a camp for her horsemen who were to conquer the simple Angles. Skilled workmen quickly erected tiled walls of clay, strengthened by bastions and surrounded by a marsh. Within the walls, tents were pitched in orderly rows, with the commanding officer's quarters in the center and his sub-officers about him. The Romans had come intending to stay. Three hundred years later they left the land of the Angles without having accomplished their purpose of conquest.

The well-built Roman walls have finally succumbed to the pressure of time, and now are almost faint. But even when they are gone their story will be remembered in the souvenirs of the Roman invaders treasured in almost every Burgh Castle home. In the digging of a well or the foundation of a house there is always the exciting possibility of unearthing another bit of pottery, or a coin of the Caesars, and a discovery would be a cause for rejoicing throughout the village.

A Hero Every Day

Eighty shots were exchanged when the steamship Paulsboro, an American vessel carrying a U. S. N. armed guard, was attacked by the German submarine. Although the enemy was using shrapnel, and shells were bursting in the vicinity of the gun crew, they unflinchingly held their posts, and through cool and excellent behavior, not only succeeded in saving the ship, but drove off the submarine. The crew was in charge of Chief Gunner Mate Joseph E. Reiter, whose mother, Mrs. Mary Reiter, lives at 1020 Myrtle street, Menomenee, Mich.

NAMES IN THE NEWS.

An ace is an aviator who has brought down more than five enemy machines. As a distinguishing mark an ace receives a round nose fitted on the propeller of his aeroplane.

MR. CHADBOURN SUMS UP THE SITUATION.

The only obstacle to getting an eight-way government shipyard here, as stated by the government representative and by the Tidewater Power company, is the present unremunerative public service rates. Either there is opposition to increased trolley fares and gas service or there is not. If there is opposition the responsibility must be assumed by some one. We shall not accept defeat from a myth.

If the shipyard enlargement goes elsewhere now, and the whole plant is abandoned after the war, the responsibility must rest, first, on those citizens, if any, who oppose the increase in rates, and second, on all the citizens who acquiesce and thus permit opposition. By inaction and delay we are gambling with our future.

We have before us the crisis of a lifetime, an opportunity to make or destroy our future, depending on our acting immediately with enlightened business morality, which recognizes mutual interests and assists in their development. C. C. CHADBOURN.

A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY

One Hundred Years Ago Today 1818—Decree of the Belgian government expelling the Jesuits. Seventy-five Years Ago Today 1843—President Houston issued a proclamation declaring an armistice between Texas and Mexico during the negotiations for peace. Fifty Years Ago Today 1868—Second national encampment of the G. A. R. opened in Philadelphia. Twenty-five Years Ago Today 1893—Dedication of the German building at the World's Columbian Exposition.

When a Feller Needs a Friend



By Briggs

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