

THE OBSERVER

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THE WATERWAYS

The champions of the utilization of inland waterways have cause to feel encouraged over the outlook—the Railroad Administration has expressed a determination to foster the waterways, and President Wilson, before leaving for France, "committed himself to the development and promotion, in every legitimate way, of the water transportation system of the country, and asserted that the war had demonstrated the value of water transportation."

Theodore Tiller, writing for the Greensboro News from Washington, says:

Well informed observers here believe there will be a steady and systematic encouragement of waterway transportation following the declaration of peace. This does not mean a series of "pork barrel" bills, but the traffic of reconstruction and the lessons of wartime trade will inevitably bring about a more scientific study and development of the inland waterways and harbors of the country.

That a period of unprecedented development is ahead of Southern ports has been forecast in these dispatches. Such is the view of Senator Simmons and other senators from the South who are confident the war has shown the necessity of a greater utilization of the smaller ports so that the congestion in New York, Boston and Baltimore may be relieved.

The United States is blessed far beyond the continent of Europe with bold streams affording the means of transportation but these streams have not been utilized simply because it was not to the interest of the railroads that they should be utilized, and the railroads are so strong and influential that they have controlled the situation.

To day railroad freights are congested and business drags. If the thousands of miles of navigable inland waterways were being utilized, this congestion would not exist. The problem of transportation has come to be a grave one indeed, but it could be easily solved by the utilization of the inland waterways.

THE RED CROSS ROLL

Reports received at American Red Cross headquarters Christmas eve showed that the total membership of the 1919 Red Cross would be well beyond 16,000,000. That means that the organization has had added to its treasury the great sum of \$18,000,000. A big amount of work and a vast deal of good can be done with sixteen million dollars, and now that the war is ended, the legitimate expenses of the organization should be greatly reduced, so that the people should not be called on for further contributions for a long time to come.

What shall be said in praise of the noble men and women who have worked and made sacrifices in this great work? It were difficult to say too much for the deeds of heroism and the work of alleviation have surpassed anything of the kind ever known. The American Red Cross stands before the world today as a triumph of the Christian religion, and its work is receiving praise and being accorded honor the world over.

SHALL WE FORGET THE SOLDIERS?

We repeat here a reminder we took occasion to make recently that during the fighting in Europe the American newspapers and speakers, and especially the speakers, stated emphatically that after hostilities ceased and the soldiers who were doing the fighting and enduring the heat and burden of the day, should and of course would be given the preference in positions in both public and private—that they were to have their "old jobs" back, and those who wanted office could get it. These emphatic declarations of the debt due by the country and to be paid by the country to the returned soldiers always brought forth enthusiastic applause from the audiences.

It is too early yet for a development of the course the country will pursue in regard to taking care of the returned soldiers in the way of putting them again in business, but there seems to be a disposition in political circles to forget or disregard the aspirations of the soldiers. In Virginia, Senator Carter Glass having been made a Cabinet officer, his seat in the Senate is being eagerly sought after by the men back home without waiting to find out whether there are any soldiers overseas who would like to be candidates. There are two North Carolina soldiers overseas—Col. Albert L. Cox of the 113th Field Artillery and Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt of the 105th Engineer Regiment—who have practically announced candidacies for the Governorship, but we have heard nothing of the back-home candidates withdrawing from the race in favor of these soldiers. On the contrary, the list of candidates is getting larger.

"The ingratitude of nations" is a trite saying, but it has proved a true one more than once in the past. Let us hope that it is not going to prove true in regard to America's returned soldiers.

THE NATIONAL GUARD

Brigadier General Samuel T. Ansell, acting judge advocate of the U. S. Army, has rendered an opinion to the effect that when the various units of the National Guard now serving with the Army shall have been discharged from the service they will be "wiped out" as military organizations. In January, 1918, the judge advocate's office decided that when National Guardsmen were "mustered out" of the Federal service they would revert to their military status and also to their status in the National Guard. Now General Ansell says that the January decision was based on "muster out," and not on "discharge."

There may be some fine points in military law or ethics which the civilian can not grasp, but it seems to us that General Ansell is making a distinction without a difference. Is there any difference between mustering out a soldier and discharging him from service? If there is any inextinguishable law or red tape which will refuse to private life the National Guardsmen after they have been discharged, why not simply muster them out, so that they may "revert to their military status and also to their status in the National Guard," and thus allow them to remain in quasi military service if they so desire? If this could not be done, Congress or the Legislature of the different states should at once take steps to place them on the footing they occupied before the war.

It seems to us that it would be ungrateful and unjust to "wipe out" the National Guard after the glorious service it rendered in Belgium and France. One thing is certain—the National Guard has proved "a very present help" from the time it served on the Mexican border up to the present, and it is questionable if the United States could have rendered sufficient aid to the Allies without it. Some of the most important battles of the war were won by the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern soldier who constitute the National Guard. They have been tried and found patriotic, brave, hardy and easy to discipline. The great majority of them needed little training after they landed in Europe, and the record they made on the bloody fields of France and Flanders is one that not only went far toward winning the war, but reflected honor and glory on their country.

FACING A PROBLEM.

The delegates to the peace conference in Europe are facing a problem which will be hard to solve, and that is how to place some of the former autocracies on a self-governing basis and at the same time prevent them from descending to bolshevism. The Saturday Evening Post very aptly says: "Autocracy is government by the worst elements at the top; bolshevism is government by the worst elements at the bottom. They differ in that autocracy is organized and bolshevism is hell let loose." The trouble seems to be in the autocratic countries that neither the upper nor the under crust has any con-

ception of what real freedom or liberty is: every beat of the autocratic mind is toward the doctrine of force, while that of the bolshevik mind is to have revenge for centuries of injustice, while license, mistaken for liberty, holds full sway. The real leaven, that alone can leaven the whole lump—the bourgeois—seems the pet aversion of both autocrat and bolshevik.

France, after passing through the fires of revolution, has emerged a free and independent country, where freedom is established on a firm basis. Switzerland is a model republic, but the making of some other nations into democracies bids fair to be a difficult task. The Saturday Evening Post says: "Russia, Germany and Austria are rid of their old autocrats. The way has been cleared for them to choose a democratic form of government. Russia has chosen anarchy. Germany and Austria have swayed toward the abyss."

In the meantime, while the victorious Allied nations are laying plans to make the world democratic, it will be well for America to guard her bulwarks of freedom. The I. W. W. have been striving diligently to "turn loose hell" (as the Post would say) in America, and the bolsheviks are hastening to their assistance, and the only way to avert the evil is to root it out. Again we quote from the Post: "So in planning our new list of imports, let us include only desirables. In planning our list of exports let us head it with undesirables. Under our laws we send rotten food to the dump because it is a menace to health. Rotten men, who are poisoning America with rotten propaganda, belong there too. Why do they linger here when in Russia they can live the ideal that they preach? Utopia yawns for them. Make them go to it. We do not want them. America for Americans and men who want to be Americans."

That seems a clear vision. If on America has devolved the burden of making the world democratic, let America endeavor to have all the bolshevik and the other discordant elements assembled in Russia or some such hotbed of bolshevism and anarchy, where they can be taught democracy in one big class.

AMERICA HONORED

President Wilson was on Thursday accorded an ovation in London which has been seldom equaled when royal personages were Great Britain's guests. The Associated Press has given a good account of the day's proceedings and it should be read by every American man and woman. America should thrill with pride at this great ovation tendered its chief executive, not simply because President Wilson was the central figure as an individual, but because he represented American democracy, American institutions, American ideals, American traditions, which the great British Empire honored in the reception tendered.

To America the world is looking for a lasting peace, founded on justice, and when so staid, sober, conservative a people as the British accord to America's chief executive an ovation which has seldom been equalled, the evidence is plain that the world has faith in America's might, wisdom, righteousness, truthfulness and justice.

Again we say that the American people should thrill with pride at the magnificent reception given their President by the people of Great Britain.

INTERVENTION IN RUSSIA

It has been announced recently that the Entente has decided against extensive military intervention in Russia just at present. We take it for granted that the Entente powers know their ground, and do not intend to play into the hands of any faction in Russia that has more of selfishness in its aims and actions than of real desire to serve Russia.

It seems difficult to determine whether or not there is any really patriotic organization actively at work just now in Russia, and the only result of "extensive military intervention" would perhaps mean assistance of one set of bogus patriots against another set of bogus patriots. The proletariat are in the saddle in Russia. Perhaps it is best to let them and the anarchists scrap among themselves until they become exhausted and used up, and then the real Russian patriots—the bourgeois—can go in and get their dues.

IMMIGRATION NOT NEEDED

It is to be supposed that the United States Government will at once take steps to prevent promiscuous immigration to this country. Considering the fact that millions of the young and active men of the belligerent European countries were either killed or incapacitated during the war, it would seem that emigration would not be dreamed of in those countries, but bolshevism, assisted by the I. W. W., is making desperate efforts to get a strong foothold in the United

States, and an army of wild-eyed, scheming emigrants from Russia and Germany would be of great assistance.

The Saturday Evening Post, in its current number, well says we should look closely into the nature of our "imports," lest there get upon our shores hordes of rotten men to poison America with rotten propaganda. We have too many of that sort already. The mere fact that all the men possible will be needed in Europe for generations to come will not deter anarchist and bolshevik propagandists from seeking to add largely to their ranks in America. This would be a rich field for them to exploit.

Beside the bolsheviks, anarchists and fake socialists, the champions of democracy still have the German militarists to contend with, for though temporarily defeated, they still show signs of considerable life and activity. If propaganda to get the world into turmoil, militarism might again be able to assert itself, not only in Europe, but in America. But conceding that the German militarists, by secretly encouraging anarchism, could gain no foothold for themselves, they might cause wide-spread trouble, which would be to their liking on account of the hatred they bear to democracy.

The outlook for settled conditions in this country, for some time to come, is not encouraging. A clamor is being made for the return of the railroads to private management. So soon as that is done wages will be reduced, and their trouble will begin. We would not do the labor unions the injustice of charging them with being tainted with bolshevism, but strikes by unions would make the bolsheviks, anarchists and all the undesirable doubly active in efforts to array labor against capital. Anything to cause trouble and unrest is welcomed by anarchism, which hates all but itself.

There is not a country in Europe which does not need re-development on account of the ravages of war, and each country needs all its own men to do that re-development, while the United States needs no help from any of them. Immigration and emigration are not in order anywhere, and will not be for generations to come.

ABOUT COTTON

The cotton crop of 1918 is larger than that of 1917. Taking local figures here in North Carolina, we find that up to December 1, 1918, Cumberland County had picked 18,000 bales, against 11,897 bales at the same time last year, while Robeson County had picked 51,678 bales this year, against 43,718 bales last year. That is a considerable difference, and yet the price for this year is higher than it was at this time last year. It sold on the Fayetteville market Friday for 23 cents.

Notwithstanding the fact that the "beary" are striving to keep cotton down, it is probable that it will be higher than it is at present. There is no reason why it should not, as the European mills will get well at work ere long, and the raw product will be greatly in demand. Unsettled conditions and the tardiness of the demobilization of European soldiers are preventing a speedy return of industrial activity.

If the time should ever come when cotton was freed from the shackles put upon it by the speculators, it would ask no odds of either legislators, manufacturers or commercial agents, because its culture, manufacture and use are absolutely essential, its necessity being second only to that of grain, which makes bread—the staff of life. Cotton is King, but, like some other kings, its emissaries and courtiers are doing all things possible to weaken its power, while they themselves wax rich through their devious methods.

KNOCKING! KNOCKING! KNOCKING!

Exercising a privilege which is very dear to them and which seems to have become an ingrained habit, the American people at least some of them, knocked the Administration during the war, and are continuing to do so now that the war is practically ended. Notwithstanding the fact that the War Department got together an army of more than two million well equipped soldiers, placed them in thirty-two large, specially built cantonments and camps and then sent them across the Atlantic ocean in a little more than a year, the enemies of the Administration, the pro-Germans and

CHICKEN LIVERS

An old hen has a much larger liver than you in proportion to weight or food eaten. Then it follows that they get bilious just like you do. They are grouchy, cross, unhappy. Start her liver and make her happy. Then she will lay eggs all winter. Come and get a package of E. A. Thomas' Country Powder. Feed it occasionally. See your local purveyor—keep them things—look for eggs—four more get back if it fails. A. S. Huske—Adv.

the pacifists knocked the Department without let-up.

Doubtless the War Department made some mistakes during the war, but as it is composed of human beings, such was to be expected. Let us go back a little: On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. The American army was small, ridiculously small, in comparison with the armies of the European powers. But after crossing the ocean and placing in the field more than two million men, America did that for which she set out, and on November 11, 1918—one year and seven months after the declaration of war—Germany and Austria were forced to sign an armistice.

It really seems, after a calm and dispassionate review of the great work accomplished under the direction of the War Department, during the period of the war, that the knockers would cease their knocking. But they have not done so. Now they are knocking because the soldiers are not being sent home fast enough to suit their idea. On November 11, the armistice was signed, and already—not two months after—600,000 soldiers have undergone physical examination, been recorded and dismissed from the service, while thousands have been brought from France, and thousands more are arriving every day.

It should be borne in mind that these soldiers must each be examined physically and given discharge. That takes time and an immense amount of work. Yet if it were not done, the knockers would use their hammers with a vengeance. The solons of Congress are calling on the War Department to do away with red tape and let the soldiers return home. The idea of Congress complaining about red tape! The War Department, to an important observer, seems to have the work of demobilization well in hand, is evidently intent on doing things decently and in order, despite the senseless, selfish knocking of the knockers.

A little knocking now and then may serve a good purpose, but the continued hammering now being done is harmful and disgraceful.

THE ELECTION IN BRITAIN.

Lloyd George's coalition party swept the field in Great Britain at the recent election. Out of 707 seats in the House of Commons, the Coalitionists have 519, the Sinn Feiners 70 and the labor party approximately 75. As the Sinn Feiners have declared their intention to establish an Irish parliament, refusing to sit in the British parliament, Lloyd George will have still less opposition on the floor of the House.

The women were completely snowed under, only one of them—Countess Markievicz, a Sinn Feiner—being elected. The labor candidates made a poor showing, not near so good as they expected. Their leader, Arthur Henderson, was defeated. H. H. Asquith, former premier, likewise met defeat, and the indications are that the political sun of the Asquithians has set to rise no more.

The victory of the Coalitionists is very encouraging to the friends of democracy, who are rejoicing the world over.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

A slacker, one who seeks to escape military service in the time of his country's need, is contemptible under any circumstances, but the so-called conscientious objector is one of the most contemptible of the lot.

There are thousands of conscientious objectors to military service in this country, men who are too good to raise their hands in war against the enemies of their country, although those enemies commit murder and rape, rob and burn. Before war was declared, a large part of these so-called conscientious objectors were in no way noted for their piety or regard for the welfare of their fellow-men. It is doubtful if they had the remotest idea of what the Quaker doctrine taught. (By the way, the Quakers put those conscientious fellows to blush by the manner in which they (the Quakers) went to the rescue of their country during the strife.)

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot well says:

In the first place, the conscientious objector passes under a misnomer. A virtuous libertine or tender-hearted murderer would be no more contradictory in terms. It is a gross slander on conscience to attribute wrongful conduct to its guidance. Some of the breed allege that military service would be a violation of their religious scruples, and in so doing, without palliating their own offense, attempt to shirk the duties which they have contracted with the faith which they profess. It is religion unworthy the name which places devotion above patriotism and fails to recognize that fulfillment of duty to God. No man can be too holy to draw his sword in a holy cause. The offense of which the conscientious objectors have been convicted speak for themselves. They are either to be explained as the attempts of cowards to take refuge behind the skirts of religion or of traitors to disguise their treason in the mantle of

NOTICE. Semi-annual dividend of four per cent. to stockholders of THE NATIONAL BANK OF FAYETTEVILLE was declared December 17th and payable January 1, 1919. A. B. McMILLAN, Cashier.

H. H. H. NO TOYS OR CHRISTMAS GOODS WILL BE TAKEN BACK OR EXCHANGED. Persons who have had goods laid aside will please pay for them and get them out early tonight or give delivery instructions at once. A few packages were left on our hands last year after having been kept for the purchasers. We trust none will be left on our hands after tonight. Merry Christmas to all. HUSKE HARDWARE HOUSE Phones 40 and 32.

Over 600 Mules and Horses Just Arrived. All size mules and a good assortment of horses. SIX CARLOADS OF EXTRA BIG MULES IN THE LOT. SUITABLE FOR HEAVY HAULING. C. L. BEVILL. Largest Individual Dealer in the South. FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

sanctionless hypocrisy. In any event such creatures have forfeited all claim to be counted as true Americans. It is a noticeable fact that these so-called conscientious objectors do not hesitate to take advantage of and enjoy the benefits coming to their country and community through the privation and hardship endured and the blood shed by those of their fellow-countrymen who had no scruples against acting the part of patriots. It is to be hoped that the Government, instead of being lenient with the "conscientious objectors," will give them the limits of the law, for they are a disgrace and hindrance to the land which affords them protection and support. Two German officials, Baron Von den Lucken and Dr. Rieth, who were very prominent in the German administration which robbed Belgium, have had the effrontery to apply to Food Administrator Hoover for food supplies for Germany. While Mr. Hoover used a naughty word in his reply to these wretches, he hit the nail on the head in a way to suit all lovers of justice. Mr. Hoover said: "You can describe two and a half years of arrogance toward ourselves and cruelty to the Belgians in any language you may select, and tell the pair personally to go to hell, with my compliments. If I do have to deal with Germany, it will not be with that pair."