

For
People Who
Think

Everything

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BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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GERMAN SPIES IN AMERICA

It is shown that in Washington newspaper correspondents have been sending cable dispatches to obscure newspapers in Switzerland costing as much as a thousand dollars a month, and that these newspapers never before received any cablegrams from this country. The New York Herald says these are code messages and contain information for Germany. It reads the riot act to Congress in the following vigorous fashion:

It would seem as though some great disaster were necessary to force upon Congress a realization of the war problems which confront us. An illustration of the blindness of the House is given by the fact that upon the declaration of Representative Mann of what he calls the "ridiculousness" of the national alarm over German plotters the spy provision of the trading with the enemy bill was stricken out.

It is to be regretted that there is no channel of official information between the great departments of the government and Congress. Were that the case the Congressmen whose minds are cloudy as to conditions as they are might be well enough informed to enable them to legislate intelligently as well as patriotically.

The Herald this morning, in a dispatch from Washington, shows how serious this condition is. Washington and New York are filled with German newspaper agents, whose nominal employers are publications in neutral countries. Surely there is some ground for suspicion when a German in America, posing as a newspaper correspondent, sends to an obscure journal in Switzerland cable dispatches costing more than a thousand dollars a month when it is a fact easily ascertained that never before the present conditions existed did the journal in question ever spend a dollar in cables from this country.

Under present laws the cable companies must reluctantly accept cable dispatches from anyone who pays for them. A moral conviction that they convey information to the enemy. Nothing is easier than the concealment of a code in what appears upon the surface to be an honest news dispatch or commercial message.

Representative Mann is overwhelmed with grief at the thought that Germans under a provision of the trading with the enemy bill might be denied the consolation of receiving letters from relatives in this country.

Must a transport be sunk before Mr. Mann will feel that we are in a war and that it is better that the tender sensibilities of German enemies be injured than that the Prussians get exact data concerning our military movements upon which to base their pirate warfare?

It seems more than passing strange that a Congressman of Mann's intelligence should propose a law that would stop this kind of business. But in a nation money mad it is to be expected.

And that is the trouble with the war right now. Instead of a nation becoming patriotic and forgetting for the nonce all else save the honor of the flag, hundreds of crazed money grabbers rush in and insist that this will not do or that will not do. Unless Uncle Sam takes measures to stop the spy system; unless he rushes through his war preparations and sends five million men to France, the war will be continued indefinitely. The American people, as a people, have never yet been aroused. Nine-tenths of them fail to grasp the enormity of the situation. They fail to realize that it is possible for Germany to come to these shores with her invading armies. They have gone money mad and prohibition mad and all other kinds of mad, and are not making hay. The President is doing all he can do, but instead of concert of action, instead of all of us doing something to help in the prosecution of the war, thousands of us are assisting in retarding it. But one of these days there will be an awakening. We will be locking the stable after the horse is stolen. Every German spy should be hanged. Every man aiding and abetting the enemy by word of mouth or otherwise should be imprisoned. This is no time for half-way measures, but half-way measures seem quite the thing.

An Ill Wind.

It is an ill wind that blows good to nobody, said Laurance Sterne, and we wonder how the inhabitants of the ocean feel about this submarine warfare. Cargoes valued at millions of dollars go down to the bottom, and of course furnish food to the denizens of the deep. The sharks doubtless smack their lips when a crew is lost and wonder if it is true that the ravens are fed as they are fed. In the last three years hundreds of millions of dollars in foodstuffs have gone to the bottom, and thousands of lives have been lost. And the fishes of the sea rejoice, no doubt, and think that times are good with them.

The man with a straw hat doesn't feel very proud of it, because he knows that the half-ounce salt put 'em within reach of everybody.

WE KNEW THIS TWO WELL, ALAS!

The federal trade commission has given its official sanction to the fact that prices on almost everything consumed are too high. But we all knew this. Why waste time and money in ascertaining facts already known to all men? Why not give Hoover or the trade commission or some other agency power to act? Why should we be paying three and four prices for foodstuffs, and everything else, for that matter? No reason in the world, except speculators have come in like highwaymen and demanded our money and we have given it up.

President Wilson issues appeals to the people and to the railroads and to producers, but what is wanted is a law that will give the government power to act, and then machinery to enforce that law. It can be done and done quickly if the fool Congressmen will get a little patriotism into their heads and forget politics about a day.

The average Congressman is so afraid that he will not please his constituents in all things that he walks the tight rope and does nothing. What Congress needs is some brave men, men able and fearless, who will take hold of these questions and shake things up. Right now the people of the United States are being robbed blind, and there is a way to stop it. Not necessarily by saying what corn shall be worth, but by saying the gambling must stop and that speculators cannot buy and hold and corner markets. It is, easy to do, but it will never be done, it seems.

Nothing Serious.

The Durham Herald says about our great hog pen war and other things threatening to disrupt the city:

Between the fight over the selection of a new superintendent of the schools and the proposition of allowing hogs nearer the city limits than in the days of yore, the Greensboro Commissioners are making a bid for a popularity that is not unlike the esteem in which a populace hold the mumps. The war-time hog proposition came along about the same time the superintendent of schools failed of re-election, and between the two the Gate City people have found plenty to occupy their minds without worrying over a set of senators and congressmen who love the sound of their own voices more than they do the men who are being sent to the battlefields.

There has been no blood spilled up to the hour of going to press. There will be nothing doing unless the Commissioners defiantly continue the school warfare. If this is done there will be an attempt at recall. We doubt whether the recall would accomplish anything, but it is certain that a petition will be circulated if the school matter is not quieted. The friends of the Hammel campaign insist that Koontz must not be retained, because if he is the school system suffers. It is on this question that all hangs. Hundreds of citizens have expressed themselves, and as the days go by the blood gets hotter. The hog pen business is not serious. The opera house matter isn't exciting people very much—but there is room to hang a hat or two, and there will perhaps be something doing.

But in these times, when war is everywhere else, Greensboro wants to be the Johnny on the Spot. She will start something.

Suppose lightning should strike an interurban Hog Pen and put it out of commission? Would the city be responsible, and should an investigation be ordered?

Conservation.

It doesn't look like there was much conservation of coin or time in this state, if we are to judge by the number of conventions being held. True, there are limited delegates, but the merriment still goes on. In our town yesterday Mr. Fred Taylor, chief of the fire department, asked for expense money for only seven delegates, whereas it has been the custom to send fourteen. War times caused him to cut in half the usual delegation, but no matter what the organization the state meetings still go on.

And why not? If war is on us, why not let our people have a good time while they can? Why shut up like a clam and look serious and say we must talk only in whispers. There is only one thing paramount in this war business, and that is to stop the waste of foodstuffs. The idea that every table should be laden with food that is never eaten must be dismissed. Cook only what will be consumed. Save the garbage for the pig pen—see that there is no waste of food. You can't waste the money. If it is spent for a state convention today it will be spent for something else tomorrow. It is only a circulating medium and cannot be wasted. As a nation it makes no difference whether Smith or Jones has the full purse—just so the purse is full. But as a nation it does make a difference if both Smith and Jones waste food that should be saved. That is the difference, and food conservation is the one thing to watch and talk about.

The rumors that Germany was about to sue for peace do not as yet seem to be confirmed.

A FREE PRESS NOT LICENSED

It is generally understood among many people that the business office of a newspaper dominates the editorial rooms, and that were it not for the business office suggesting that the editor go light on this subject or light on that through fear of losing business there would be in this world a fearless and unbought press—newspapers which would, like Boscoe of old, eat 'em alive. But even that wouldn't work. The following news item and comment from the New York Herald makes the story plain:

After an existence of six years an advertisement-less newspaper in Chicago that proclaimed itself to be the sole exponent in America of the ideal free press has suspended publication. The publisher, who boasts of the achievement of having brought his journal to a point where it was not losing more than \$500 a month, issues a swan song in which he says that not enough people wanted a free press. Tired of publishing a newspaper "under no obligation to advertisers and free to publish the truth," this journalistic crusader surrenders to his imaginary foe and enlists in the war on the kaiser.

It is interesting to observe that, while many persons have proclaimed their demand for a "free" press—for journals that would print nothing but the truth and that would not sully their souls and their columns with advertisements—only one man has had the hardihood to back his theories with his money. The failure of his experiment does not prove that the American people do not desire a free press that tells the truth fearlessly. It merely shows that the free press already in existence is superior to the one that vaunted its freedom.

Incidentally, also, it shows that a newspaper without advertisements is not a complete newspaper. Six months hence an advertisement indicating that John Smith & Sons are making a "drive" on potatoes or satins will interest as many thousands of newspaper readers as will a news item that the erstwhile publisher of the ad-less newspaper has participated in a big "push" somewhere in France.

The truth is that newspapers for the most part print about what they want to print—now and then the menacing word "policy" comes in and makes demands, but for the most part the editor of the paper generally has his say. Advertising is simply a business proposition, and the merchant is a fool who allows personal feelings to keep him out of the columns of a newspaper that other people read. Publicity is what he seeks in advertising, and every medium, no matter whether he likes its politics, its appearance or its owners, is worth his while. He can buy space and tell the public what he has to offer, and the more publicity he gets naturally the more business he will do. The billboard, the electric sign, the newspaper display, these are the things that bring the name of the business before the public, and the man who is selling goods doesn't care where the customers come from, just so they come and leave the coin. The live merchant doesn't advertise for one particular sect or creed; he may belong to a certain church, but he wants members of all churches to trade with him. And so he shouldn't care anything about the newspaper, except to know that it is read by the people. The Chicago paper dreamed that if there were no customers to please except the subscribers; if the editorial department was free to talk about any and everything, all the people would want such a paper and demand it. But, as the Herald points out, after six years' hard sledding it never did pay, and finally was forced to suspend. People read advertising as well as news.

In this town the past week this paper has carried several pages of information concerning cut prices on shoes and clothing, and the readers were glad to get such news. As the Herald says, it is interesting information to know that John Smith & Sons are making a drive on potatoes or satins.

It makes a man feel very cool to get into one of these cut-in-half Palm Beach suits and know your neighbor paid full price for his because he wanted to force the season.

Will Fight To Finish.

While Germany is not at peace with itself, the chances are that the war will continue until Germany is annihilated. The kaiser is evidently determined to never sue for peace, and doubtless the allies are determined to never grant peace unless it means the absolute annihilation of the German empire. That was a great day in Berlin Tuesday, but it appears that the ones responsible for the war are still in the saddle, and as they believe, it appears sincerely, that God is with them in this struggle it is folly to look for a settlement of differences.

The allies have indicted Germany for all the crimes in the catalogue. They have firmly resolved to fight to a finish, and while America is in the hasn't signed up with the allies. She is simply assisting, and it will take her five million men to bring to the kaiser a realizing sense that numbers will finally be victorious.

EMMA GOLDMAN ONLY GROUNDS IS MISGUIDED FOR EXEMPTION

Emma Goldman has commenced to serve a two years' sentence in a federal prison, convicted of attempting to obstruct the federal army draft law. Perhaps others made as much attempt in this regard as the Goldman woman, but Emma has too long been a holy terror. Naturally her past character was considered—it had to be—although the law does not intend it should be. But for many years Emma Goldman has been sowing the seeds of anarchy in this country, and the harm she did was in influencing weak-minded outlaws to join her organization.

Emma Goldman is a wonderfully brilliant woman, and her talents could have been employed for the good of the country her father adopted. It is said that when she serves her time she will be deported to Russia, and if she is this country is well rid of one great disturbing force. To her credit it must be said that she is entirely honest and earnest in her views on anarchy. She believes that it is possible to have an ideal world where there is no law. Her philosophy teaches that if people were as they should be the human race would be one large family, all helping one another. From the platform she has preached this doctrine, and her followers have been taught to believe that the way to reach this ideal world is to use dynamite to clean up capital and Society. Preaching and teaching this dangerous propaganda, she has always managed to hide behind the Constitution, which guarantees free speech in free America. But for years she has been guilty of seditious utterances, and her departure will be a great thing for this country. Her lecture engagements haven't proved very successful in late years. At first she was regarded more as a curiosity than anything else and large houses greeted her. But the past few years she has entertained socialists and anarchists, and that was about all. Her printed articles were widely distributed.

And if we could get another railroad into this town there might be less talk about one system trimming the populace.

Looks Easy.

And now comes Senator Penrose, and demands an investigation of the bureau of publicity. He wants to know about salaries, about the number of people employed, and he wants particularly to know why reports are changed and why the American people can't have information. This especially because of the different stories told about U-boats when our transports were going to France. Strange that this Nation cannot furnish information to its people and satisfy them. There is certainly some reason for maintaining secrecy concerning certain things, and, as we understand it, President Wilson appointed George Creel to personally represent the President. It is from Creel's office that all authentic information comes, and it is up to that publicity bureau to say what can be printed and what cannot be printed.

It is a self-evident fact that at least half of the wild stories which have been sent from across the sea the last three years concerning victories of both the allies and Germans have been misleading. Berlin claims one thing and the French war office gives it the lie. It was our understanding that with a bureau of publicity in this country our people would receive nothing but the truth, if they received anything. Oftentimes the truth need not be told. But it looks like Senator Penrose wants to start something, and this seems a poor time to do it. Better let the President have his bureau and let that bureau give out what information it wants to give out, and not pay attention to all the wild stories, many of them written in New York and given a foreign date line.

Might as well prepare for at least two years of war. The kaiser isn't going to stop until he is stopped.

Federal Control.

The Southern publishers have held their annual meeting and, like the famous Tooley street tailors, they have resolved that they were the people and asked Congress to take control of the white paper situation. But why not take control of the black coal situation? Why not take control of all situations in these days of highwaymen's tactics? The thing to do is to put the conspirators in the penitentiary. That they are conspirators, morally, there is no doubt, and the Department of Justice has made overtures suggesting that they are legally so.

The paper manufacturers have fled the publishers for over two years; they have done it defiantly, and Congress has no more right to take control of the paper output than it has to take control of all other outputs in which the public is interested. Surely the flour and coal supply is of greater moment than the supply of white paper. In a pinch a man could get along without his newspaper, but take his coal and flour away from him and he either starves or freezes to death.

It isn't a matter of government control of the products—it is a matter of government control of the speculators and conspirators who have determined to rob the people blind.

It is now thought that the drawing for army men will not take place until next week, because of delay in some states getting in their information. But next week the numbers will be placed and the names of those who will go to war, unless they are excused or fail to pass examinations, will be known. The War Department has just issued a bulletin telling who will be exempt, and it is a wide field, and many are the men who can successfully claim exemption if they do not want to go. The list came in this morning and is official. It reads: "The following are the only grounds for exemption:

"1. That you are an officer—legislative, executive or judicial—of the United States, a state or territory or the District of Columbia.
"2. That you are a regular or duly ordained minister of religion.
"3. That you were on May 18, 1917, a student preparing for the ministry in any recognized theological or divinity school.
"4. That you are in the military or naval service of the United States.
"5. That you are a subject of Germany, whether you have taken out papers or not.
"6. That you are a resident alien who has not taken out first papers.

"In addition to claims for exemption claims for discharge may be made on any of the following grounds; which are the only grounds for discharge by a local board:

"1. That you are a county or municipal officer.
"2. That you are a customs house clerk.
"3. That you are employed by the United States in the transmission of mails.
"4. That you are an artificer or workman employed in an armory, arsenal or navy yard of the United States.
"5. That you are employed in the service of the United States (under certain conditions). See paragraph e of section 20, Regulations.
"6. That you are a licensed pilot regularly employed in the pursuit of your vocation.
"7. That you are actually employed in the sea service of any citizen or merchant within the United States.

"8. That you are a married man with a wife or child dependent on you for support.
"9. That you have a widowed mother dependent on your labor for support.
"10. That you have aged or infirm parents dependent upon your labor for support.
"11. That you are the father of a motherless child under sixteen dependent upon your labor for support.
"12. That you are a brother of an orphan child or children under sixteen dependent on your labor for support.
"13. That you are a member of any well-recognized religious sect or organization organized and existent May 18, 1917, and whose then existing creed or principles forbade its members to participate in war in any form and whose religious convictions are against war or participation therein in accordance with the creed or principles of said religious organization.
"These are the only grounds for exemption or discharge by a local board.
"Another person can file a claim in your behalf, but must use different forms in filing the claim."

Of course it is understood that physical defects let a man out. Naturally there will be a big demand to save the married man, and on this ground there will be many appeals. However, there must be an army raised, and after the first drawing there will be a second, and so on until at least five million men are ready to do battle.

Suffragettes Obstinate.

The regularly organized equal suffrage league has tried to get the fool women composing the Congressional Union to stop their idiosyncy and get down on the earth. But the half-witted sisters insist on picketing the White House grounds, and so sure as a gun is iron they are sowing seeds that will land them in prison for a term of years. President Wilson has been very patient with these poor fools, and one of these days he will find it necessary to stop them from running at large. The hope is that he will make his order quickly. Such conduct as indulged in by these half-crazed creatures only adds to the general discontent of the country. They have all been guilty of treason, and to hang them would be pretty harsh, but treason is punishable by death, and sex should make no difference.

The Four-Minute Men.

Greensboro will organize the Four-Minute Men, and two or three times a week at each playhouse there will be four-minute speeches concerning the war and what is needed. These speeches will be made by volunteers who enlist for the war period and will assist the government in its prosecution of the war. The speakers are furnished their text by the government, talk only four minutes, and it is the belief of the Council of Defense that this publicity will be the greatest help yet devised.

Naturally if you didn't go to the Fourth of July celebration you will try to do something Christmas.