

## THE GREENVILLE DAILY NEWS

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Saturday Afternoon, September 22, 1917.

### SUSPICION

The people of this country will have to place a close watch on their feelings in the days that are before us. We are a complex people, made up of a mixture of many races. Across the waters our kinsmen are engaged in deadly conflict, and we have ranged ourselves on the side of one group and against another. But the blood of those others flows largely in the national veins. It is this fact should cause us to watch carefully that there grow not up in our hearts a suspicion of those of alien blood—enemy blood, if you so term it.

There are and will be spies—many of them. There are and will be traitors—let us hope but few of these. But if we are always watching for spies and traitors we will create an atmosphere that will work more injury to our national life than all of the machinations of all of the spies and traitors combined could possibly accomplish.

The good old rule that every man is a gentleman until he is proven otherwise should govern our nation now. When by his actions he proves himself otherwise, then will be time enough to condemn him.

It is a noteworthy fact that the man who is always looking for faults in others can find them, even where they do not exist, and constant suspicion can and will tend to distort perfectly innocent actions into grave offenses.

Our best course is to leave to government officials the work of bringing spies and traitors to justice. Our individual interference might have a tendency to muddy the waters.

### FREE SPEECH

There is at the base of most of the disloyalty evidenced in this country, one of the basic principles upon which this government was founded—freedom of speech. The trouble, however, lies not with the principle itself so much as with its erroneous application.

First we must realize, which many of our malcontents have not, that there can be no such thing as absolute free speech. Theories and honest views as to the expediency or justice of proposed laws are perfectly proper before the enactment of such laws. The undisputed right of the majority to rule imposes upon the minority, after its enactment, the duty of absolute obedience. Any other view of the matter tends to the destruction of the very fabric of free government.

In times of peace and quietness this view of the citizens' duty to government has always been liberally construed, and much really treasonable criticism has been passed over and condoned. From this leniency there has arisen in the minds of many unthinking persons an idea that the right to express one's thoughts, no matter how treasonable those thoughts may be, is one of the inalienable rights of free men.

A little sober reflection will show the fallacy of

such reasoning. We have laws against murder, arson, rape, and many other crimes. Would any dare arise their voice against obedience to these laws? How long would such a person remain a large?

But these, you may say, are vitally necessary. Granted, but we will go further.

Taxes are levied, and all are required to pay. Have you the right to counsel resistance to the tax collector or throw obstacles in his way? You may not approve of the particular law under which the taxes are levied and collected. You have a perfect right to seek to have that law repealed, but NO right to seek to nullify it. It is the will of the majority, and as such must stand until repealed by a majority.

While the selective draft law was pending in Congress every American citizen had a right to raise his voice against it if he felt so inclined. But AFTER its passage no person has the right to counsel or practice resistance to it.

The rule is absolute. Its enforcement has not always been strict; but this, as we have stated, was due to undue leniency when the urge of public safety DEMANDS IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE to the laws of the land, and every loyal citizen will throw the whole weight of his influence in the scale on the side of law and public security.

To do otherwise is to betray the government that harbors and protects you.

The fellow who will repudiate his obligation to his country in this supreme crisis of its history will repudiate any other obligation, it matters not how sacred. If he will evade his duty to his government, he will evade any other duty. If he permits "conscientious scruples" to stand between him and a performance of his duty, his conscience will work likewise on any other occasion as well. He will bear watching.

### Major Starrett Tells More of the Camps

(BY GEO. MARTIN)  
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON.—Major W. A. Starrett, chief expert advisor in the building of America's sixteen cantonment camps for the draft armies, today official denied that exorbitant wages were paid laborers on the work.

"Statements have been made" he suggested "that abnormal and high wages were paid; that water boys for instances received \$5 a day in some places.

"Perfectly absurd" said Major Starrett. Look at the situation and see for yourself. Here are the largest contractors in the country. Their margin of profit is very small, averaging about three and a half per cent. Also they desire to serve the country.

"Take a certain company as an example. If they were out to pay big money are to hold up the government they could have laid down on the job just as well as not when the terms of the contract were violated by the government. But they didn't. Not only that, but the head of the concern himself put a million dollars of his own money into the job to keep it going for the government.

"Are people like that going to pay water boys \$5 a day?"

"The government has a very competent organization made up of civilian officers, reserve corp men, men who came out of the big engineering concerns. Were they likely to pay \$5? Its absurd.

"Here middle men used in buying supplies?"

"In some instances yes," said Major Starrett. "We dealt with a middle man in buying plumbing supplies. It we had bought them direct we would have had to buy from twenty-five different manufacturers, one part from bolts, washers, pipes, nickel plates and so on.

"We made one company the assembling agent, the middle man and the government allowed them five per cent on the cost. Anybody approaching this sub-

ject intelligently will know that the middle man there was necessary and that he earned his profit. Generally speaking however, we have dealt with all manufacturers direct.

"To give some idea of the enormity of the task Major Starrett said: "We spent \$150,000,000 in three months. "We provided 600 cubic feet of air space for each man, as compared with 300 feet for each man in European cantonments.

There are 2,000 buildings in each cantonment, or 32,000 in all. They are so built for re protection that only one building can burn at a time. "We saved \$12,000,000 on the camps by building them two stories instead of one. "Each cantonment occupies two square miles of territory, roughly. "In addition to the gigantic cantonment construction work there is still under direction \$350,000,000 worth more of building in progress or contemplation. "We used four billion feet of lumber from 10 mills throughout the country. We built 4000 miles of finished road surface. Roads approaching the camps will add another few hundred miles. "We used 2000 miles of piping for the water supply system, and 2000 miles of drainage and sewerage pipes. "It took a carload of tacks to put the tar-paper on the roofs. "Railroads delivered from fifty to one hundred and fifty carloads of materials to each camp every day. There were about 8,000 carloads of material in all. "We

took care of 8,000 to 10,000 workmen at each camp every day. Some camps had a weekly payroll of \$150,000. The government had about 150 representatives in each camp. On one job the contractors held a foreman's meeting every morning, 800 to 1500 foremen gathered to discuss plans. "We had our own fire protection system. Also a corps of fire watchers, a police force to put out the fires."

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Martha J. Latta, Proprietor.

# GENTRY & GORMAN

The sales have been heavy this week but there have been no block sales. Gorman's sold 706,070 pounds this week and a better satisfied lot of customers never left a warehouse.

Prices on the better grades of Cutters and Tips have advanced from three to five dollars a hundred.

The market has been open just one month and Gorman's has sold 2,634,900 pounds in this time. This is a Record.

Gorman's is the leader both in pounds and prices.

One of our competitors asks in his advertisement "Why do we lead in pounds and prices." They do not lead in pounds and everybody on the market knows it; however Father always said that a person who would mislead in one thing would not hesitate to mislead in another?

Remember we publish facts and never try to mislead and our customers all go home satisfied, advising their friends to sell at Gorman's.

## GENTRY & GORMAN -- SELL IT FOR MORE