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SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1918.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE

Military secrecy is a necessary precaution in time of war. Occasionally, however, it can be made to cover more than the information that must be withheld from an enemy.

We presume the Washington government is aware of the fact that exceedingly ugly rumors are going the rounds in regard to the extraordinary treatment accorded the ranking major general of the United States army.

As matters now stand, the American people knew that General Wood was detached from the expeditionary forces only a few hours before his command sailed and some time after he concluded his personal arrangements for the trip to France.

In view of partisan efforts to transmute the affair into political ammunition, true friends of the administration cannot fail to feel deep regret that the war department persists in a policy of silence that seems as unnecessary as it is obviously unfortunate.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER

Many of us in the great army of stay-at-homes chafe over our inaction during this war time and ask, "How can I help?"

"Those who regard the sale of war savings stamps as a side enterprise or as something that appeals mainly to children totally miss the purpose behind a plan which is one of the best thus far evolved for war purposes.

Baseball was having enough trouble before Crowder placed it on the list of non-essentials.

The Italian resistance gives Emperor Charles a considerable jolt.

THE PARTY IS CALLED

The Greensboro News Saturday morning editorially called upon the democrats of the state to know if they are going to permit manhandling methods in the conduct of the primary law, and bluntly asks if this piece of election machinery is to be allowed to go to the scrap heap because of misuse.

The cause of The News' shot is the controversy that is now raging in the third congressional district, and the refusal of the state board to go behind the returns even to investigate the serious charges that have been made by Charles L. Abernethy.

It is alleged that there was rank juggling with the vote in a number of precincts. As an example, it is said that the tone box, Albertson, in Duplin county, sent in a vote of 101 for Dortch and 0 for Abernethy.

It is also charged that in Sampson county no primary was held. Another allegation is that the soldier vote played an important part, the Dortch supporters being allowed the widest latitude in getting their ballots counted.

There are numerous charges, and it is said that good men stand willing to swear to the truthfulness of these reports. With all of these charges as to the violations of the spirit of the primary law, the state board of elections says it has no power to go behind the returns.

It mattered little to us which of the two men won, but we do not like to see one of the safeguards of the people in selecting their candidates ignored in such a ruthless manner.

There seems to be no law to get at the bottom of the controversy, and there also seems to be no inclination to do so. The democratic party cannot afford to rest under the cloud.

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HELP FOR THE RAILROADS

When the United States shipping board first announced its plan for building wooden ships as emergency vessels there was a storm of protest from excited individuals who declared the construction would be a sheer waste of time and material.

This arrangement will remove a heavy burden from the railroads and will prevent another coal famine in states where important munition plants are located.

It is entirely within the range of probabilities that Wilmington may be made the port for a large zone that will include all of North Carolina and parts of South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

It is announced that America will be flying aircraft across the Atlantic. Congress should investigate this.

Bulgaria and Turkey are having a row over the division of spoils. When thieves fall out, honest men get their dues.

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Colby sticks to it that a little beer now and then is relished by shipyard men. Have it your way, Bainbridge.

We see little need for so much explaining about the "work or fight" order. It means just what it says.

The Marines.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, D. C., June 22.—American marines are now going over the top with their usual conspicuous success. Twice in the past two weeks they have earned the praise of the allied armies by their "irresistible activity," which forced the Germans back at Chateau Trierry and Belleau woods.

And, so far, there is only one brigade of marines in France, a brigade consisting of 10,000 men. Units for another brigade are rapidly being assembled in this country at the request of General Pershing.

The strength of the United States marine corps has been raised more rapidly in proportion to its original strength than that of either the army or the navy. Two years ago there were only 2,000 men in the whole corps.

Before the war an English officer, who had made a study of the world's various military organizations, declared that "the best equipped, organized and most efficient body of its size in the world" was the United States marine corps.

The exact significance of the existence of the marine corps as a separate branch of the nation's fighting strength is not always thoroughly understood by the civilian.

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CHAPTER LI. A House Warming.

When we had been in the flat about a month we decided to have a party. As Betty called it, a house warming, according to Carrie. We had bought white and blue spreads for the four cots, and made bureau cover and sash curtains of some thin material that matched them.

We had invited Alice Newlands, Tom Hunter, George Harkness and two young men whom Jane and Betty knew. Carrie had asked if she might include Lena, and we had been glad to have her.

While American attention has been fixed on the war in Europe during the past three years the marines have been carrying on several small wars, such as the one which brought peace to Nicaragua, and have lost a number of men and officers dead and wounded.

In the unwritten law of nations a marine corps has a peculiar status which fits it particularly well for such police duty. The landing of a detachment of marines in a small country, like Nicaragua or Haiti is not regarded by that nation or by the European nations as an act of conquest or aggression.

The other important duty of the marine corps, that of establishing and maintaining naval bases, is of first importance in the event of a naval war. A naval base is absolutely necessary to a navy which expects to maintain itself in any special waters for a length of time.

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AS TO WATER RENT.

From the viewpoint of the property holder the city council could hardly make a law that is more unjust if they pass a law making the owner liable for water used by the tenant.

It is manifestly unfair to hold one person liable for the acts of another, especially where the person held liable has no control over the one who commits the deed.

Water rent is not a fixed charge and your water bill may be anywhere from \$1.50 per quarter to \$100 per quarter, or even more, and a house that rents for \$5 or \$10 per month can run its owner in debt several hundred dollars during the year.

You can imagine the great waste that will occur the first cold weather that comes; for the reason that it is much easier to let the water run (at the expense of the owner) than to turn it off; and it is not in keeping with the spirit of the times to waste anything, and do not forget it costs money to pump water, and to buy coal and chemicals, and while it is not the intention of council to encourage waste, but in action such a law will result in waste.

In order to meet the demands of the government shipbuilders, many houses will have to be built; but with the possibility of such a law being enacted, it is certain that it will be extremely hard to induce any one to build.

The proposed law is unjust and every property-holder should make an effort to persuade the council not to change the present method, that provides for a consumer paying for water used and not the owner of the building.

Respectfully, J. O. REILLY.

June 22, 1918.

A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY

One Hundred Years Ago Today 1818—Steamboat service inaugurated between New Bedford and the island of Nantucket.

Seventy-five Years Ago Today 1843—President Tyler and his suite reached Baltimore on their return to Washington from the Bunker Hill monument dedication.

Fifty Years Ago Today 1868—Matthew Vassar, founder of Vassar college, died at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Born in England, April 29, 1792.

Twenty-five Years Ago Today 1893—Sir William Fox, prime minister of New Zealand, died at Auckland. Born in England in 1812.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY IN WAR June 23, 1917—Reception in house of representatives to war commission from Russia; house of representatives passed food administration bill, giving broad powers to President Wilson.

OUR DAILY BIRTHDAY PARTY H. R. H., the prince of Wales, heir apparent to the British throne, born at White Lodge, Richmond, 24 years ago today.

Brig. Gen. Henry A. Reed, U.S.A., retired, born at Plattsburg, N. Y., 74 years ago today.

George R. Lunn, New York congressman, former mayor of Schenectady, born at Lenox, Ia., 45 years ago today.

Clarence Eddy, celebrated organist and composer, born at Greenfield, Mass., 67 years ago today.

Adolph O. Eberhart, former governor of Minnesota, born in Sweden, 48 years ago today.

Abel R. Kiviat, celebrated distance runner, now in the service, born in New York city, 26 years ago today.

Eren Chisaa refuses to stand for bolshevism.

The Days of Real Sport

By Briggs



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