AMERICAN SENTINEL

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ST. PATRICK

Among the ancient heroes of the church none enjoys a more genuine popularity than St. Patrick. These who wear the green on his own day include many others than those that originated on the "ould sod". St. Patrick's day means something more than the memory of any one man. It is a sentimental celebration for a powerful race strain in our American melting pot.

The old saint himself was typical of the race that acknowledges him as patron saint. He was an aggressive old churchman. When he came over Ireland was heathen, and he left it Christian, founding 365 churches and baptizing 12,000 people with his own hands.

That indicates a man of tireless energy. This quality has always been an Irish characteristic. Very few loafers are found among this people. The first pioneers in their emigration to America lived the most humble life. Wearing picturesque red shirts, they built our railroads while the old time Americans looked on rather superciliously.

In spite of all difficulties and much toilsome labor, the Irish people for many years came over in great numbers. Their little homes were usually surrounded by flowers, the sign of an imaginative and hopeful race. By and by the new generation began to appear in our schools and in our business and politics. Always they were a force to be reckoned with. they have been hard fighters, fearing not hard knocks, but loyal friends and with generous hearts.

The good humor with which they have met the toil and conflict of life is a splendid of temperament. Their tireless energy has contributed a big share to our industrial progress. So hats off to St. Patrick and the friendly followers who wear the green!

OUR BURDEN OF DEBT.

One of the methods by which the German plotters throw sand in our machine, is to bear down heavily on the terrible burden of debt we are laying up. They talk as if money were being thrown away like so much dirt.

This is old stuff. All opponents of human advance have always used it. When the American school system was being built, the mossbacks used to sing this same old song. A school house would cost a terrible sum of money. It could not be paid for in ten or twenty years. It was a burden laying its hand on every man's income. Yet our people continued to build schoolhouses, and were never sorry for it.

So with our free spending of money to ward off the terrible German menace. It will cost a good sum of money. But it is cheap for what we get.

When a man's wife and his children are stricken with some terrible disease, he does not consider cost much then. He pays out his good money, for which he has toiled hard and long, with the same freedom with which Uncle Sam is spending his now. Even if it takes all his savings, he is willing to do it to save his family.

Our national burdens seem light in comparison. It is now estimated that the government is spending about a billion a month on the war. Itis proposed to pay about a third of it in taxes. That means about $8,000,000 new debts in a year. The wealth of the United States is estimated at about $200,000,000. That is, it would take 25 years of war to use up our national wealth.

And even then this makes no account that this war will be largely paid out of the savings of the people. As German already owes $31,000,000 on a national wealth of $80,000,000,000, it is easy to see which will crack first. Wherefore it is no time to cry baby on the money question.

COMFORT FOR WORKING PEOPLE

A laboring man writes to an exchange in a bitter way, protesting against the discomforts and even sufferings that many hard working people have to put up with. He moved to a certain city and found houses and appartments very scarce. He finally had to put up with a flat where the system was all out of order, where heating and plumbing arrangements were very poor. He was informed that as soon as warm weather comes, the place will be infested with vermin.

The problem suggested by the above is one that exists in most industrial towns. There may be houses enough, but some of them are probably misarable old tenements on which no money has been spent for years.

A great deal of the labor shortage at the shipyards has been due to this cause. Workmen would be found to take these jobs, but the quarters in which they had to live were so uncomfortable that they got discouraged and quit.

Feeling this situation, a good many of the larger industries are taking up the problem of getting homes for their workers. Some of them put up and sell little dwellings or rent them at cost. This of course takes a large amount of capital. But it must pay abundantly. If a worker can find a comfortable home near his factory, he will think some time before he is allured to leave by offers from other places.

The time has gone by when people will live contentedly in unsanitary and badly repaired houses. Our people have ben brought up in our public schools, which are unually clean. When they are asked to live in tenements that are in bad condition,it goes against the grain. It is one of the problems of modern business, to see that its workers have comfortable places to live in. Better sanitary inspection will help. But it will take the spirit of enterprise on the part of the business community, to see that plenty of comfortable homes are provided.

PHYSICAL REGENERATION

The National Security League is working for a better physical development for our civilian population. It has appointed over 200 committees, covering 30 states, to carry out this idea. It is felt that the examinations of the drafted men showed a too low state of physical development. The idea is to form clubs of men and women everywhere to take physical exercises.

When the average man gets through his baseball days, his physical development is the last thing he thinks of. If he works out doors, he probably thinks he gets enough exercise in his daily toil. Yet that may employ only a portion of his muscles, leaving the others stagnant.

Indoor workers do not usually get the physical activity they need. They sit in office chairs day after day and year after year, with every organ of the body only half functioning. Then when their physical machine goes bad, they call a doctor and think they can cure their trouble with drugs.

Probably what they need it some simple form of exercises that would keep their organs working. Some years ago there was a great sale for many kinds of "health exercisers". These usually consisted of little pulley weights apparatus to be attached to the walls of a bedroom. People would operate them furiously for a few months. They would usually get a little improvement, but would get tired of the effort and quit.

It is easier for 20 people to do a thing together, than for them to do it separately. There is a contagious enthusiasm of numbers when a body of people do the same thing together. Exercises in rhythmical motion are doubtly stimulating, and if the rhythm can be marked by a musical instrument, it has the fascination of dancing. This scheme of the Security League looks very good. Something of the kind is much needed in Westminster.

WINNING THE WAR.—PROVIDING LABOR

While the business community has supported the war in good shape, here and there one finds business men who do not realize how absolutely necessary it is to find labor for the war work. Rochester, New York, furnishes a splendid example of this form of practical patriotism.

Before the United States entered the war, certain Rochester plants had contracts with the British and Russian government. This work was not wholly popular, as it took away so much labor from the other factories. When our country got into the war, the army officers went to Rochester and asked for the co-operation of the business community to help these munition plants speed up, and handle work for the United States also.

Consequently a committee of the business men of the city was formed to see that Rochester did everything possible to make munitions. The business men were persuaded to make the agreement that no machine and no tool engaged on war work should be idle a day for lack of labor.

That pledge has been strictly kept. The entire equipment of these plants has been kept busy. Labor has been freely supplied from the other factories when it was needed. The sentiment of the business community did it. If anyone objected, he was quickly made to feel that he would simply have to fall in line or he would lose his business standing.

That is kind of spirit that is very badly needed in some places. The quicker this war is over, the better it will be for the business community. We do not want to see labor drifting around in a roving way. But when workers are needed for the war plants, everything else should give way. Any manufacturer should be willing to give up some of his help if they are needed to perform this service for the government.

PRO-GERMAN COLLEGE PROFESSORS

The colleges have made a splendid record in this war. The proportion of their graduates who enlisted voluntarily has been very large. It shows that it pays to instruct our young men in the history of the world. The more they know of human experience, the better able they are to deduct shams and frauds.

But here and there one finds a pro-German college professor. There are occasional groups of bumptious college students, who feel that they have acquired a little more than their share of human wisdom. Demanding the right of free speech, they glorify a country where free speech is absolutely denied, and seek to enable that country to stablish its domination over the world.

A great many of our college professors were enducated in Germany. Only a few years ago it was regarded as the very centre of human wisdom.

Some of the students in Germany caught the taint of the national imperalism. In their admiration of scientific precision, they failed to see that the life blood of democracy had been sapped. The technical advance of teh German people so excited their admiration, that thy failed to see that polically and socially the Germans were in the most rudimentary stage. They had failed to take the first step toward democracy and self government.

Some college men who went through this experience were so charmed by German friendships and impressed by German science that thy are blind to German cruelty, deceit, and lawlessness. They are little fited to continue with the work of instructing the youth of a democacy. They have not acquired that insight into the life of people which college work is supposed to give. They need to go to school themselves again, instad of attempting to teach others.

THE BUSINESS MEN'S PARTY

The demand of the hour is for business methods at Washington. It comes from men of all parties. In the past when the country wanted things run on a business basis, it has always had to turn to the Republican party.

Dreamers and visionaries call the Republican party "reactionary. They argue that the party is dominated largely by succesful business men, who are not much interested in the welfare of the working masses. If a man succeeds in business, it is usually a sign that he has progressive ideas. This spirit is likely to make him friendly to all genuine propositions for community betterment.

The great mass of Republican business men, who have built up successful enterprises, who conduct, our factories and stores and farms, are not opposed to reforms and human progress. They merely wish to be sure that we do not follow every wandering fire and will o' the wisp that allures us into false steps.

The men who have built up successful businesses are usually friendly to projects for genine social advance. They want to see the working masses comfortable. They would have that feeling from business reasons if for no other. There can be no good business without a general condition of economic well being among the people.

The business community has usually favored Republican rule. It has not blindly followed that party. When the party had unworthy leaders, it has lost the support of the best business people. But it is a safe guess that in the coming political campaign, the business element will mostly support the Republican ticket. They will feel that the more Republicans we have at Washington and the state governments, the more efficiently the war work will be conducted.

THE SURGICAL DRESSING WORK

Some skeptical people, who usually aren't doing anything themselves, think that the production of surgical dressings by patriotic women is being overdone. If they could see conditions in some of the French villiages, where not a single able bodied man remains, they would not feel so.

In these collossal battles, where hundreds of thousands of men are engaged, all previous wars and deeds are outclassed. A great many men are wounded in these battles. But with prompt care and abundant material handy, the vast majority of the wounded are saved.

Vast storehouses should be filled in France ready for the hour of need. A Red Cross doctor who recently returned from France reports a case of a soldier so badly wounded that it took a whole case of dressings to save him. Under the strain of such demands, a great mountain of supplies will quickly melt away.

THIS WAR OF SCIENCE, BEATING THE MINES

Not all the ships that go to the bottom are sunk by submarines. A great many have struck floating mines. Here is one of the perils our soldier boys will meet as they cross to France. But thanks to the persistent work to avert this danger, the mines may not get any of our transports.

The German mines are one of the most devilish acts of this war. They have been a peril to all American and neutral shipping. The Germans have been placing these mines by the hundred thousand. They cost $1500 apiece.

The common type have been steel eggs, so anchored as to float some eight feet below the surface of the water, where no lookout could ever see them. They have small cylinders of lead projecting from their tops, which are broken on contact with a vessel. This breaks vials that contain chemicals, which uniting with other chemicals produce an electrical charge, and connect with the detonator. The explosion will take the bottom out of a powerful ship.

Originally the Germans employed disguised merchant ships to lay these mines. Now they are laid almost entirely by submarines, which can conduct this work without discovery, but of course are liable to pursuit by the American and other destroyers when they come to the surface.

These mines would be a terrible peril were it not for the efficient work of mine sweeping done by British trawlers. Sweeping these mines is the most dangerous work in this war. The casualties are 60 per cent higher than in service in the trenches. Two trawlers will drag between themselves a wire cutter supposed to sever the wire holding the mines. If they have good luck, the torpedo rises to the surface, otherwise the trawlers rise in the air. It is heroic work, and is making possible the comparatively safe passage of our boys to France.

SLEEPING SENTRIES

Four United States sentries on the trench line are condemned to death for sleeping at their posts. Their case will come before President Wilson, who will have in this matter to decide a tragic problem of war policy.

Our boys connot possibly be secure in their defense unless the sentinels are absolutely alert. The sleeper at his post is a peril worse than German shells. For the dead of night when drowsiness steals on the watcher so irresistibly, is just the time the Boches may be coming over the top.

It is desirable to resort to harsh measures only as a last resort. But everyone of our soldiers should realize the terrible result that may follow sleeping at the sentry's post. A whole army might be overwhelmed that way. The soldiers should train themselves in ability to keep awake. They do it if they try, and their lives depend on the ability of every man to do it.

THE GREAT ISSUE

Summoning all Republicans to vote at the recent special elections in New York, the Sun of that city took occasion to remind the voters of some seasonable and reasonable truths. It pointed out that a vote for Republican candidates now is not a vote "for Prussianism and for the Kaiser" as Senator Lewis of Illinois once declared, but that it is a vote of resistance to the doctrine that the legislative branch of the government must be subordinated to the executive branch, and a vote for the Constitution as against those who would break that ancient instrument down. These truths will be reiterated in the regular campaign of the coming fall. There will be no question of loyalty which can be raised by any but an addled mind. Republicans stand for the nation and for a vigorous prosecution of the war—and their record in Congress proves it. They also stand for an efficient and an economical conduct of the war, and they oppose the heaping of more power into feeble hands to the detriment of the public services and to the destruction of old and cherished American traditions. This is not partisanship, it is patriotism.

MORE DILLY-DALLY AND DELAY

With reports coming from the food producing sections of the country that farmers are diminishing their production because of uncertainty as to the labor supply, the future is being jeopardized by failure on the part of the War Department to give specific and definite official assurance that farm labor will not be drafted before the 1918 crops can be harvested. As delay has been one of the great weaknesses of this administration in various steps of our war preparation, so it seems to be a serious flaw in the attitude of the War Department toward the conscription of farm labor. While it has been intimated that in the administration of the draft law farm laborers will be placed in a deferred class and not called from their usual labors, yet this is such an indefinite statement as to afford the farmers no satisfactory assurance upon which to justify their planting the usual or an increased acreage. It is not enough to make half-way promises, nor to suggest that if farm labor shall be drafted other labor may be supplied to take its place. There is no form of production where skill is more essential for profitable operation than upon the farms. If farm labor be taken, it cannot be supplied from the cities where men are unfamiliar with the thousands of details in the care of crops and live stock, and who are accustomed to working only eight or nine hours at wages which the farmers are unable to pay. The food production problem can best be solved by giving immediate, specific, official assurance that labor employed upon the farms will not be drafted during the crop season of 1918.

TEAM WORK IN TELEPHONING

In all telephone work, cooperation is the keynote of good service. The subscriber must help the operator.

For instance, answer your telephone promptly. An incoming message may be of the utmost importance to you. If you delay in answering, the other party may hang up his receiver.

Be slow to blame the operator for "don't answer" and "busy" reports.

In the first case, the operator cannot force the party to answer; in the second, she must wait until the called party, or somebody on his line, gets through talking before she can connect you.

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AN OPEN LETTER

From the Editor to the Farmer.

We are facing a third Liberty Loan for the sustenance of the war and perhaps no time is more fitting to get together and have a little homey talk to the farmers of our community.

We are engaged in a tremendous undertaking, one that calls for sacrifice and money, munitions and supplies. The day for conservation has passed and merely talking patriotism will not get us anywhere.

It is not believed that the majority of our farmer folk realize this yet. We say this advisedly because recent statistics show us that of the income wealth of the United States during the past fiscal year, 42 per cent. went directly to the farmers, and in looking the matter up we find that only two per cent. of them subscribed for or were holders of Liberty Bonds.

We make this statement reluctantly because we were always prone to push the farmer forward as representing the bone and sinew and real stability of the country, we thought he was the anchor cast to windward.

And we don't want to think that this lapse was intentional on the part of our agricultural friends. We would rather hold that it is due either from carelessness or lack of appreciation of the condition of affairs as they really are.

Shall we lay it up to selfishness or greed or miserliness or disregard for others? We don't want to hear the people of the cities say that the farmers are not doing their part and, in passing, it might be mentioned that accusations of this kind are not infrequent.

This war is a long way off which is a good thing until we come to consider what would happen in the conduct of some of our people were it closer because it then would be brought right home to them and no matter how self-centered they were they would be pried loose from their snug satisfaction and their precious dolars.

t is a lamentable fact but nevertheless true that sometimes a dollar gows to such proportions that it obliterates the whole surrounding landscape and when we come to sum it up in cold, hard figures, 80 per cent. of our farmers in this United States of ours are war slackers. That is an ugy term to use and strikes the ear with a peculiarly discordant note, but these are figures substantiated by authritative report and the question is, what are you going to do about it because it is "up to you."

Having listed up the number of persos who will give them credit and lend them money, some of our people have now figured it out that they can afford to buy an automobile.

Another favorite way of keeping the home fires burning, is to have a bonfire when the wind will blow the smoke over to your neighbor's house.

The enormous amount of peace talk the Germans have put up recently, is an indication that they are making extra preparations for their great spring drive.

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