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THE BRAND OF SHAME.

On the outskirts of the crowd that attended the Red Cross rally in Winnsboro Wednesday, a man was heard to remark that he could not give to the Red Cross because he had his children to educate. This man is in moderate circumstances and better able to give than some of those who subscribed from twenty five to fifty dollars. His children are above the age where they are actual dependents, one of them being actually older than many young men now wearing the uniform of the nation and in active service. If there ever was a case of selfishness personified this is it. The English language contains no expressions capable of describing the contempt in which such a man ought to be held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

To educate his children! Children who are of such an age that if they are determined to have an education can easily get it themselves! And educate them with money that is actually needed to save the lives of soldiers lying torn and wounded fighting that his home and his children may be saved from that which is worse than death. Today in the trenches of Europe there are soldiers slowly dying because they have offered their lives for the safety of those here at home. Giving freely all that they have to save the wives and daughters of such men as these from the fate of those women who in Belgium and France are spoken of in solemn voice as being "missing." Thousands of these soldiers already lie in unmarked graves in the fields of Flanders for this very cause. Of these thousands there are many who today might still be alive and happy if our people had given more than they did. Today others are suffering and dying because some people are educating their children rather than save these lives. In France and Belgium, in Roumania and Poland, in the various lands overrun by the Germans, old men, women and children are starving to death—the babies have already been destroyed by hunger—and no help can come save from the Red Cross. And yet there are men in our midst, be it to the everlasting shame of the community, who will not give. God pity the men who can pass a starving baby without offering aid! God pity the man who will not help save the lives of wounded soldiers who are fighting to save America from a barbarian race that has ravished the fair womanhood of an entire nation! God pity the man who can educate his children with money easily made because of the war, while his own protectors and those of his home and the bodies of children of whole nations are rotting in unmarked graves. The children of such a man should refuse an education at such a price.

The war will be over one of these days, thank God, and probably the world will some day forget all about it, but the time will never come when the people of this town will ever forget an action of this kind. Such men as these will in all the years wear a brand of shame and disgrace that time will not efface, and their children will inherit unconsciously an inheritance that will bring only pain and anguish. Some how we can't believe there is a place in Heaven for such as these, for in the last day the Master shall say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was a hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick and in prison, and ye visited me not." Then shall they also answer him, saying, "Lord, when saw we Thee a hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee?" Then shall he answer them, saying, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me."

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment.

A SPLENDID ACT.

Every now and then one is struck with the acts of men and corporations that is worthy of notice. One of these came to light Wednesday at the Red Cross meeting, when the Winnsboro Bank gave its Red Cross donation in the name and for two of its former faithful employees. These two men, H. L. Elliott Jr., and W. H. Flenniken Jr., were worthy of the honor conferred on them by the bank, and on the other hand the bank added to its assets of liberality and thoughtfulness by the act. Mr. H. L. Elliott, Jr., is now in the service, being one of the first to go from Winnsboro. Mr. Flenniken also tried on numerous occasions to enter the army and was turned down on account of his physical condition. Finally when he was drafted he was refused entrance into the army on the same ground. The editor happens to know that he is now making another effort to get into the service. It was an act worthy of

the bank and extended toward young men who in our humble opinion merited the courtesy.

NO VISION—NO HEART.

It was fully demonstrated at the Red Cross meeting Wednesday that there are men in Winnsboro without vision. At that meeting a great amount of money was subscribed, an amount more than twice the apportionment asked. The town as a whole did do well and has added to what was done since the day of the meeting more than that a great many of those giving gave liberally, however there were a few at that meeting and still others since whose gifts and offers left a blot on what had already been done. There were subscriptions given and offered at that meeting and since ranging in amount from twenty dollars to one hundred dollars by men who could have given more than ten times the amount and felt it less than the men and women who gave small amounts. There were several five hundred dollar subscriptions and yet there are others in the community who can give even more and not feel it as much. Teachers who are working for the pitiful salary of forty five dollars per month gave from ten to twenty five dollars while men worth from twenty-five to two hundred thousand gave and offered from twenty to one hundred dollars. One man was heard to remark that he would not give because it was so soon after the third Liberty Loan. Poor deluded fool! He did not GIVE to the Liberty Loan. He simply at the expense of his government made one of the best business deals of his life.

Why will men of wealth, men who have nothing but money to give the government, why will such men sell their very souls for their dollars at a time like this! Winnsboro and other sections of the county have men who can easily give five times what they are offering and still give less than the small contributor. We are inclined to believe that it is lack of vision. It has been well said that a people who have no vision perish. We believe this that the people of this land who fail to give as they should at a time like this, hoarding their dollars when to give would mean the purchase of life for men, women and children, we truly believe that lack of vision in such a time will cause their wealth to die from their hands. The children and grandchildren of such men suffer for the parents selfishness and in many instances they have been known to beg bread when ill held fortune had vanished away.

We realize that such editorials will cause a cry from those hit, and that as a result we will probably lose supporters. However this may be we prefer to lose the kindly feelings of the men who fail in their duty than to lose our own self respect through silence. What a future of regret for the man who fails at such a time!

LOCAL CO-OPERATION.

We, all of us, admit the power of co-operation. "Two heads are better than one," and granted this we must concede that three heads are better than two and four are better than three. Each man separately stands for his own individual force; but if a number of men join together for some object, their power in the community increases as each man joins, much more rapidly than his personal force would warrant.

Notwithstanding our knowledge of this fact, it is often hard to secure co-operation in local affairs. True, co-operation means giving up one's own preferences, subordinating one's personality, considering the public good as better than one's own. The man who forgets himself is the most successful in working with other people.

Every man naturally wants the best for his town or village, but the community that achieves the best is the one where the citizens work unselfishly together. In other words, when we refer to the public spirit of a community, we simply mean its capacity for organized and smooth-running co-operation.

THE WAR AS A MELTING POT.

We hear much these days of the melting pot as applied to the Americanization of our foreign immigrants. While the need has been great that this foreign element be fused with the national life as quickly as possible, there is yet another phase of American life wherein the melting pot can render great service, and that melting pot will be developed in the war upon which we have entered.

Until recent years America has been distressingly provincial. Not provincial as a whole, but provincial by sections. The down-easter looked with suspicion upon anything having its origin outside old New England. The southerner viewed all parts of the country save the West as alien territory, and only had a tolerance for that section because it was made up largely of his kinsmen. The citizen of the Middle West has always been convinced that creation ceased with the completion of his territory. And so it ran. The thoughts and customs of the various sections were antagonistic, and it was only grudgingly that either could be brought to admit that there might be anything of merit come out of the other.

All this the war will change. We will no longer be a nation of many elements all antagonistic

and out of sympathy. We will no longer waste our energies in berating and belittling our neighbors, because, forsooth, they may not view all of life with our eyes.

In France there are today young men from every part of this country fighting side by side, sharing the same dangers and the same death. As the war progresses their numbers are increasing. Each is learning from others, and each is unconsciously learning to see life from the other's viewpoint. As the association progresses, many common views will be developed, and where antagonism exists, close and intimate contact will gradually but surely bring each into harmony with the other.

When this war is ended and our boys come home, it will not be a crowd of provincials we shall welcome, but an army of cosmopolitans—world citizens, we may say. These men will have probed to the bottom the character of their fellows and learned all there was to know of them. And in that knowledge they will each have found much of value when fully understood, and will have learned to appreciate to the full the good points of all.

The war will complete what our great industrial development had begun—it will make of us at least one compact nation, all Americans together, all with a common interest, a common love and a common destiny.

CAN WE ESCHEW POLITICS?

When President Wilson asked the Congress to exception of a very few exceptions the response declare a state of war with Germany, with the was immediate and emphatic. Party lines disappeared as if by magic and all were Americans the same state of cohesion has continued, Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists and Progressives vying in their loyalty to the administration, until from the proceedings in the two houses of Congress one would be at a loss to tell who were Democrats and who were not.

This unanimity of action evidenced a fine spirit of loyalty and augurs well for the administration's backing for the time ahead of us. But next fall the general elections are coming on, and many members will be compelled to contest before the people for their seats in that body.

There is now coming to be a large sentiment throughout the country that in the coming elections we as a people consent to drop for a time our propensity for politics and return these same

men to the national capitol on their records. It is pointed out that France has prorogued her elections and continues in harness the men who have been bearing the brunt of the war legislation. This is done from various reasons, principal of which is that there may be no suspicion of dissatisfaction with her legislators that might give encouragement to the enemy.

It will certainly detract from the efficiency of the Congress if any large number of its members are forced to make a fight for their positions. It would be a graceful act of the American people if in the coming election each man who has stood staunchly at his post and upheld the honor of his country, were to be given his election again as a mark of confidence tendered him by his constituents. Whether he be of one party or the other, for his election to be conceded by the opposite party would constitute one of the finest displays of loyalty and fidelity imaginable. It would say to our enemies that our representatives have faithfully voiced our sentiments in their every act, and that we have implicit confidence in their loyalty and integrity.

Our country is facing a stupendous task and needs to come to this work united in sentiment and determination. No such disturbing factors as partisan politics should be permitted to interfere with our unity of action or take from our full efficiency. During the past year we have almost lost sight of politics, and it might be the best thing we could do if we continue blind to its lure.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to put every man on his war record and let him stand or fall by it.

BACKYARD GARDENS.

Meantime, don't forget that backyard garden. Don't imagine for a moment that the urge is any less than last year. If anything, there is a more vital necessity that this year every available foot of ground be made to produce food. Not only is there a scarcity, but transportation difficulties render this shortage more acute in that they make it difficult to transport from one point to another in this country. So that in the coming season, the community that does not raise its own food stuffs may face the impossibility of obtaining them, even though they have the money to pay for them, from the simple reason that the railroads are too over-burdened to haul them. If you raise your living you will be sure of it. If you do not, you at least face the possibility of a scarcity.



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