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TELEPHONE, BEKMAN 2200.

Will the Critics of the Budget Appear at the Public Hearings?

Promptly on the publication of the tentative budget for 1918 the political enemies of Mayor MITCHELL denounced it as extravagant in the proposed appropriations, and sought to utilize its total sum for campaign purposes. None of them undertook to analyze the budget or to point out specific allowances that could be shown to be excessive. As a matter of fact, the budget indicates a rise of about 8 1/2 per cent, in the cost of the city government for 1918 as compared with 1917, and this includes increases in pay for city employees, the rehabilitation of the teachers' retirement fund, and similar enterprises to which nobody is opposed.

If the persons who assailed the budget are in earnest in their denunciation of it and its authors, they will have an opportunity this week to expose the appropriations that are too high, and to confuse to their faces the men responsible therefor. Public hearings will be given on Wednesday and Thursday which all citizens are invited to attend, and if anybody has evidence that any allowance is unnecessarily large it is a public duty to lay the facts before the Board of Estimate. Appropriations may be reduced but not increased hereafter; the citizen who can show wherein they might be reduced, should be happy to be a candidate for office this fall, by so doing would achieve a celebrity among the electors which would be turned into thousands of votes on November 6.

The town will watch with interest the progress of these hearings. If the assailants of the budget are sincere they will appear to explain their attacks, and to suggest economies that will save for the taxpayers the great sums that are alleged to be wasted. But if they do not show up at the hearings it will be plain that their outgivings were not inspired by knowledge or by public interest, but were merely the offspring of an unappeasable appetite for cheap sensationalism and the few votes that may be won through misrepresentation and deliberate falsification.

Submarine Proof Ships.

Since the commencement of construction of the new American merchant fleet the Stax has received many letters inquiring what steps were being taken to make these ships immune to submarine attack, and others insisting that no such precautions were being taken and commenting bitterly on the fact. It is apparently true that in the new construction more thought is being given to making the ships serviceable in the later times of peace than to making them safe in time of war. It must be remembered, however, that if new expedients have been adopted to shield these craft from submarine attack, their builders, or the authorities, could hardly be expected to make them public for the edification of the enemy.

Mr. Murphy's Fear of Hilquit.

CHARLES F. MURPHY is suspiciously verbose on the subject of the Socialist menace in New York. Consequently, everybody is wondering what the explanation is not hard to find. Somebody has told MURPHY that by pretending he fears HILQUIT may be elected he may scare some wandering Tammany braves into acceptance of the city treasury.

Buy Not More, but Less.

Already the unnecessary alarm created in the minds of thousands of consumers by an inconvenient shortage of sugar hereabout has resulted in attempts by some householders to lay in large stocks not only of this commodity but of other food staples. Products which are now plentiful and will continue to be plentiful are being bought in unusual quantities, to be stored for use later, and the market is likely to show the effects of ill advised purchasing in higher prices. The persons who adopt this course are their own worst enemies. They create an unnatural condition in the

fully that their value can no longer be considered experimental. This treatment of vessels is of peculiar value in that it is adaptable to ships now built and in service. A little tinkering with funnels and masts, a little carpentry, and the trick is done. In the Scientific American we find the picture of a ship designed to meet the same ends, but built especially for anti-submarine service. The fundamental idea of the two is the same—an absolutely straight deck line, no towering masts or funnels, no broken lines to show against the sky. But in the Hoger ship, as it is called, on each side is a double wall of watertight anti-torpedo compartments, making a protective wall fifteen feet wide by fifty feet high, in which will be carried cargo of a sort that would resist, in some degree, the shock of a torpedo. She is equipped with four guns, but her special feature of novelty is the fact that she could carry three large bomb dropping airplanes on the broad level deck, which is especially designed as a place for launching and landing these craft. While in the torpedo zones these planes would be constantly circling about the ship, their pilots able to see from forty to a hundred feet beneath the surface of the water according to weather conditions. It is evident that with such a patrol on duty the chance of a lurking submarine escaping detection would be slight. On the other hand the airplanes in the sky might serve as a guide to the submarine when low visibility might otherwise have enabled their ship to escape observation.

To what extent these devices for circumventing the submarine are being applied to our new ships the public does not know—and perhaps it is just as well. It seems clear, however, that present safety should not be subordinated wholly to considerations of service after the war. A ship equipped to defy submarine attack might be difficult to operate in time of peace. But a ship built with an eye single to the economical carriage of goods in time of peace would be a still more extravagant proposition if sunk on her first trip to Europe.

Where Shall We Get Labor?

The growing labor shortage, of which employers in every industry complain, may be met in part by the creation of a War Labor Board, as is suggested in Washington. To industries immediately concerned with our war preparations, such as munitions, motors, railroad equipment, shipyards and the like, men may be sent from those drafted for the National Army. Systematic efforts to encourage the employment of women in trades hitherto followed exclusively by men can be made.

But these are mere palliatives. The labor shortage is serious and growing more so. The flood of incoming labor that once passed through our immigrant ports has been shut off for three years. We have called to the colors more than a million men of working years and will presently call another million. It is commonly expected that the spring will witness decisive action on the battle front, and we cannot crumple our forces who are to do their share in that determining struggle by sending too many soldiers back to the lathe or to the forge. The substitution of women for men will help materially, as the experience of Great Britain has demonstrated. Relaxation of sanitary and humanitarian regulations, the extension of hours of labor and the admission to the country of classes of labor now excluded—such as Chinese, East Indian coolies, &c.—have been urged by some employers but are antagonized by the labor union forces.

Ferdinand's Play for Peace.

KING FERDINAND of Bulgaria is one of the wildest rulers of Europe. Being an unusually shrewd man and knowing well his two great allies to the north, he no doubt has reason for that mistrust which would lead him to seek the most advantageous terms possible from their enemies. There is thus a strong probability of the truth of the statement just received from Europe that while the Kaiser and King FERDINAND were pledging each other assurances of loyalty at Sofia a Bulgarian representative was laying before the Entente Governments at a neutral capital Bulgaria's "special desires with regard to a peace settlement."

Hard Search for a Substitute.

We tried out the men who "know how a newspaper should be run," so that we might select one to take charge while we are in the war; but as they failed to measure up to our estimation of themselves, we're still feelin' around for some one who doesn't kick it all and is willing to learn.

Liberty Bonds.

Unless we had bought a Liberty bond we couldn't look the mother of a soldier in the eyes; stand unshaken in her presence; meet unflinchingly men who are working might to their companionship; thoughtfully claim to be an American; and should feel that we were guilty of national sin.

Marking the Difference in New Mexico.

Advertisement in the Albuquerque Journal. We have a young man working around this town who ought to be placed on a rail and taken out in the woods. He is a nuisance to the public.

A Gentle Pennsylvania Host.

From the Portage Press. We have a young man working around this town who ought to be placed on a rail and taken out in the woods. He is a nuisance to the public.

A Patriotic Knitter.

From the Portage Press. We have a young man working around this town who ought to be placed on a rail and taken out in the woods. He is a nuisance to the public.

A Search for the Athens of the South.

From the Houston Post. Now here is Nashville, the Athens of the South, with its beautiful scenery, its fine universities, its fine people, its fine history, its fine future.

provision trade, which is immediately reflected in the retail and wholesale markets, and ultimately affects the transportation systems and the producers. In response to the increased demands, prices go up, and disorganization of the usual course of business ensues, the consequences of which may be serious or not, according to the extent of the abnormal movement. Moreover, a considerable loss of food-stuffs is inevitable in these transactions for buyers with inadequate storage facilities invariably find that a proportion of the goods they put by spoils or is wasted.

Instead of buying in larger quantities than they ordinarily do, consumers should adopt the policy of reducing their orders to the smallest possible quantities. This they would not only ease the strain on the market but they would contribute to their own pecuniary welfare, as the Food Administration is confident that food prices will show a steady decline from now on.

Dr. Derenburg's Open Hand.

DR. DERENBURG DERENBURG from Germany came to this country within a month after his nation began the rape of Belgium by other servants of the Kaiser. He wore the cloak of philanthropy and was accredited as an agent of the German Red Cross. He was received courteously by all, enthusiastically by some; and his conduct was such that eventually he wore out the patience of his hosts, and was kicked out.

Try Suspected Traitors by Court-martial.

Detested traitors in the service should be tried by military tribunals. In time of war the drumhead court-martial is the court in which such cases should be heard. More than a civilian court it acts as a terror to the evildoer and a deterrent to others who may be tempted to follow in his footsteps.

LA FOLLETTE.

An American Expression of American Opinion of His Course.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Senator La Follette persists in his fight for principles in which he is outwitted and assailed by the American press, and is based, despite his protest and vote. Since the majority against him and his records was overwhelming it cannot be asserted seriously that he is making a fight for a reconsideration of the question of the repeal of these laws, but his optimistic attitude is a disgrace to the law which were made without his assenting vote.

Two Dollar Potatoes.

An Editorial Article you write that the price of \$2 a bushel for potatoes will bring the attention of the Food Administration. I think it will.

A Raiser Who Had to Pay High Prices Specifies Some of Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—It is evident to me that editors, who have nothing to do all day but sit in revolving chairs and crush the souls of aspiring genius with rejected manuscripts, do not know anything about raising potatoes.

LETTING HIM IN ON THE BOY SCOUTS AND THE LOAN.

GROUND FLOOR.

Turner's Naive Story of the Sale of Stock to Hylan's Friend.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I have been grossly wronged by your paper. The insinuations involving me contained in your paper in commenting on the articles in the New York World entitled "Who is Hylan's friend?" have caused me to look upon me as one who has committed a great crime. The opinion of those that know me intimately will probably not be affected by these articles, but with my business acquaintance it may do me a great harm. Will you not in the spirit of fairness, which we are proud to say is characteristic of our people generally, publish this answer in a conspicuous column in your paper? I am a resident of the city of New York, and my family and myself have lived here for a number of years.

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dom of Bulgaria. If FERDINAND can retain all of this territory he will be the dominant ruler in the Balkans. When Austria and Germany took him into partnership it was not their intention, whatever may have been their representation, that Bulgaria should enjoy such a hegemony in southeastern Europe. They planned that Bulgaria should be a bridge to the Bosphorus, a mere link in the spread of Teutonic power eastward. Austrian publicists and statesmen have recently expressed themselves quite freely as favoring the rehabilitation of Serbia. Then there is something peculiarly offensive to Bulgaria in the encouragement that has been given to the Jugo-Slav movement for the union of the south Slavs into one nation, a nation that would be greater in area and population than Bulgaria. The puzzling things to the Bulgars are that the movement originated in the Austrian provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that Austrian troops are deserting with apparently any Government opposition to fight for Jugo-Slavism.

It is quite apparent to the shrewd FERDINAND that Austria is playing her ancient game in the Balkans and that the success of the Central Powers would merely make Bulgaria, governmentally and economically, a subordinate nation. In turning to the Entente Powers he shows that he is still deserving of the title bestowed years ago by a German diplomat, "The Fox of the Balkans."

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Preparations for a House to House Canvas for Subscriptions. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The nation is becoming anxious over the success of the second Liberty Loan campaign. As the time is shortening it becomes apparent that if the amount required is to be secured an unusual effort must be made in the last few days. A mass of small subscriptions is wanted to lift the total up to the amount absolutely needed by the Government before the closing day. An organized effort must be made to bring an understanding of this urgent need directly into the homes of the people.

For this reason the drive of the hundreds of thousands of Boy Scouts of America, set for the last week of the campaign, is being depended upon to pile up a great number of subscriptions from small investors. Heavy reliance is being placed upon the Boy Scouts to repeat their former success of securing popular support of the Liberty Loan from small investors. If this were not so the Government would not have undertaken the tremendous task of printing 5,000,000 Liberty Loan circulars especially for the use of the Boy Scouts. It is hard to believe that the Boy Scouts' efforts would mark the climax of the campaign. President Wilson would not have recognized their work by his letter and the offer of a flag to the leading troop in each State. That the scout is to be trusted to do his part in the campaign to accomplish is evidenced by his bringing in over 22,000,000 in subscriptions during the first campaign.

Scout officials expect the 257,253 active campaigners to more than double this record. They have confidence that every scout will, even though he is not a member, do his part because of his patriotism and his desire to have a share in directing the events of the world in the present crisis. When a scout promises to do a thing on his honor he is bound to do it. This is the basis of all scout virtues. Scout officials are confident that the returns will be inspiring, as they already have unmistakable evidence of the cooperation of the entire body of organized boys. Each step taken throughout the country since the official request from the Treasury Department that the Boy Scouts of America take a prominent part in the Liberty Loan campaign has been a success. There are 7,794 Boy Scouts now wearing this medal because they secured subscriptions from ten or more homes in the first campaign.

Chief Scout Executive James E. West has issued a final ringing appeal to the 82,000 veteran scouts to secure for the country to make the Liberty Loan bond campaign a memorable event of scout service willingly given. Mr. West gives the reasons for having the great Boy Scout drive take place after October 20 as follows: "The underlying motive and object of the Boy Scout participation in the Liberty Loan campaign is service and not a record. The scout officials throughout the country who have been working out of the details for this campaign realize that the boys could have perhaps secured a greater number of subscriptions earlier in the campaign and with less effort, but it was thought best to allow the other organizations and the regular channels of the campaign to do their best and then to have the scouts come in at the close and by a heavy vote to house canvas some subscriptions from those who had been overlooked."

Notwithstanding the war service medals and other honors which are given to scouts, it is not a question with them as to who secures the subscriptions, but rather a determination that every one shall be given an opportunity to take one or more bonds. The fact that the Boy Scouts' house to house canvass did not begin until October 20 is not a question with them as to who secures the subscriptions, but rather a determination that every one shall be given an opportunity to take one or more bonds. The fact that the Boy Scouts' house to house canvass did not begin until October 20 is not a question with them as to who secures the subscriptions, but rather a determination that every one shall be given an opportunity to take one or more bonds.

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