CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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Business in state political lines is beginning to pick up somewhat.

July starts off just splendid. May there be no weariness in well doing.

The draft has been extended in Austria so as to include the premier.

Those who snicker at Von Kuehlmann as the goat have another guess coming to them.

Senator Lodge is willing to raise the draft age to 40 years, but is unwilling to lower it below 21.

"Put a price on potatoes" runs an editorial headline. As if the present price were not high enough!

Clemenceau is still "satisfied" with the situation. And the old tiger is in position to know what is going on.

It will now cost you one penny more to buy thrift certificates, but you will do well to get them at any price.

America has arrived on the firing line. Her troops now occupy some seventy miles of it on the French front.

One New York editor—at least—is not pleased with the uniform worn by women street car conductors in the metropolis.

Maybe Kerensky is building his philosophy on the theory that he who fights and runs away will live to fight another day.

Uncle Sam is not a prince but a plain democrat. This explanation is offered in view of the way in which he is spending money.

According to a headline in the Nashville Banner the next Hun blow is expected to strike at a point where it is least expected.

Queries the Jacksonville Times-Union: "While the Italians are at it why not keep on to the Isonzo?" Respectfully referred to Gen. Diaz.

Another difference between America and Germany may be inferred from the difference between the observable status of Mexico and Russia.

After reading a Berlin report, one is left to conjecture whether there are any allied armies, guns or materials left on the western front.

The work-or-fight order is said to be producing results, but whether of more workers or more fighters will have to be determined by the official returns.

A "state of war" has been proclaimed in Archangel, but the balance of the world is waiting to see whether an improvement or an aggravation results.

Residents of the capital city have trouble in reconciling the admonitions to save water with the apparently bone-dry proclivities of congress.

The Washington Post declares that "the allies can put Germany out of Austria and keep her out of Russia if they wish to do so." And seemingly they wish.

We again are assured, this time by Floyd MacGriff, that the submarines are being overcome, and again the renewal of hope gives us some consolation.

Germany is said to desire only $45,000,000,000 in the way of war indemnities besides a few other odds and ends. Such moderation indicates a strong desire for peace!

If Gov. Rye appreciates the oft-reiterated advice about the hopelessness of his race for senator, and we are sure he does, he never has said anything about it.

You may not be able to follow the senatorial reasoning that because we haven't a sufficient supply of big guns—if such is the case—the draft limits should be immediately extended.

A British expert now declares that with 10,000 super-dreadnought airplanes in commission by the spring of 1919, Germany could be put out of business in from thirty to sixty days.

Cuba is not big enough and powerful enough to very seriously affect the military situation in Europe, but it is intelligently trying to do its bit for all that. It is endeavoring to expand the production of sugar on the island in every possible way, and is trying to keep its harbors clear of German submarines. Cuba is not a slacker.

THE NUMBER NECESSARY.

It is not impossible that aspiring statesmen should play politics even with the matter of raising an army. We are not sure that some attempts to play the game are not now being indulged. There's going to be a mad scramble after the war over whom to allot the credit of whipping the kaiser to. At an earlier stage of the fighting, several wiseacres by a sort of intuition decided that an American army of 5,000,000 men was necessary to put the kibosh on the kaiser. Among these were the colonel, Senator McCumber and several editors. In fact, there is some contention about who did first suggest this magic number as necessary.

Now, however, with an army of 5,000,000 practically in sight, though not in France, the figures are being revised. Senator Reed thinks it may require from 5,000,000 to 7,000,000, and the Springfield Republican predicts that the colonel will counter this with a demand for 10,000,000, which is just as easy said as 5,000,000. Gen. Wood—we mustn't lose sight of him—is quoted as declaring that "every man in the United States should be carrying a gun today," which puts him decidedly in the running. Ahe general is not worrying about such little details as shipping the army to France, producing food, clothing and arms for it, just so some 10,000,000 more men are "carrying guns."

Oblivious to all this clamor, the work of training, equipping and shipping an army goes steadily forward, and longer stretches of the battle line are being taken over by American troops. Evidently, the time for a stroke toward Berlin is not far distant. And all this is being done with some regard to the labor situation in the country which is confessedly acute. Just now 300,000 or 400,000 unskilled laborers are needed for war industries. Whence are they to be had? The shortage in coal mining is said to be imperiling all other production. Yet it is proposed to win the war, between courses at luncheon, by the simple expedient of extending the draft limits.

The Republican suggests that putting en masse the men mentioned by Gen. Wood into the army "would disrupt the processes of economic life." But what is a little thing like that if a little political capital can be made? Everything but common sense seems to be brought into play to discredit the administration and foster plans of the militarists. As before suggested men are being trained and equipped just as fast as they can be got to France, but with 1,000,000 already there, more than 2,000,000 more in camp and in training, and nearly 2,000,000 more available, it is a wild guess as to the exact number necessary to end the war.

The war department wants a little time to study the situation which is exactly what those who are trying to force its hand do not want. They create armies—on paper—over night and along with them supplies and food and clothing. It's just as easy as making figures!

DON'T LIKE FORD.

The New York Times is not at all pleased with the prospect of Henry Ford as a United States senator. Moreover, it doesn't like a compulsory primary law which makes such an election—or nomination—possible. Without the primary the Times thinks Ford might be defeated, just as the nomination of LaFollette might be prevented in Wisconsin. Apparently the Times is not concerned over any fine spun theories of the people's right to choose their own servants. What it desires is the defeat of Ford in the most convenient way, which is by some other method than the primary.

There have been many doubts expressed as to the usefulness of Mr. Ford as a senator, but the temptation is very strong to support him on account of the enemies his candidacy is making. He is a man of the people. He trusts the people and they trust him. Come what may, they do not believe he will betray them. It is reasonably certain that the interests which could so easily arrange the election of a senator but for the primary cannot control him. He is an evangel of the coming new order which is typified by social and industrial democracy.

It isn't sure that Henry Ford would feel at home in the senate. The atmosphere is different from that to which he has been accustomed. For, while the senate is the greatest deliberative body in the world, it is far from democratic. On the other hand, Mr. Ford is a typical democrat. His sympathies are as broad as the universe, and, while in point of wealth a king, he is in very truth a worker of the workers. The only thing which would seem to make his service in the senate tolerable would be the election of a few more of the same sort of men to serve with him.

There are several objections to the practical working of the universal compulsory primary. There may be valid arguments for its reconstruction, but Henry Ford is not one of them. He is one of its best exhibits. As the New York Evening Post suggests, the objection which the Times raises against the primary is one of its strongest recommendations.

With its premiership going begging and no takers, it is apparent that democracy is not yet very strong or numerous in Austria. Democrats always want good jobs.

Ex-Gov. Ferguson, of Texas, who was impeached and removed from office, is again a candidate. He charges his successor and opponent with operating a tennis court which ought to be used for a cow pasture!

WORK LIKE MEN.

Remarks the Memphis News-Scimitar:

"Commend us to the women of the west. They vote like men, and they are willing to work like men. When the Northern Pacific road was stripped of its section hands by the draft the women of the country picked up the tools that had been thrown aside and proceeded to do the work, and railroad officials say that they are doing it every bit as good as the men did."

Really, however, we can see nothing in the extract quoted to brag about. That the women are patriotic and willing to work is not a matter of recent discovery. Against the suggestion that they may not earn the privilege to vote except at such tasks as section work, we enter our most earnest protest. We do not believe their employment in such work, matters not the emergency, reflects credit upon the country. Every instinct of chivalry revolts at the thought.

The voting franchise is not a favor to be earned or bartered for, but an inherent right in a democracy. Nothing is ever said about extending to or withholding the ballot from men because they work well or shirk their duties. But even if the franchise were to be obtained through working for it, women have earned it long ago. Ever since Adam, they have been engaged in the most important work known to the world—that of raising men. This, it seems, might be considered equally with tamping railroad ties.

A few lessons in elemental democracy would be beneficial to those who strive to keep their mothers and sisters in political bondage. Just governments proceed from the consent of the governed. We believe this truth is axiomatic. Women are governed but without their consent at the ballot box. Can any exponent of a democratic form of government justify such a proceeding? Rights are not created or bestowed by law—they are born with us. When subject to the whims of law or custom, they become immunities or privileges, not rights which inhere.

In a democracy, the franchise right may be modified or qualified, but not forbidden. The consent of the governed is necessary. Women are human beings. Their natural rights are not inferior to those of men. They work faithfully and loyally in war as in peace. But their rights are not contingent on this fact. Their rights began when they began. It is a piece of monumental impudence to imply that the privilege of voting may be earned by doing railroad section work.

FOR IDLE HANDS.

A proposal which has for its purpose the extraction of some benefit from idle hands is contained in the following suggestions:

"Tax the salary earner's income more? First tax the champagne, wine and liquor lapper 100 per cent.

"Put 100 per cent. tax on the purchase price of summer furs.

"Stick 100 per cent. tax on every pleasure car other than one to a family.

"Another 100 per cent. tax on individually owned gems in excess of $1,000 value.

"An additional 100 per cent. tax on the wine checks of carbaret patrons, regardless of previously levied beverage taxes.

"An attendance tax of 100 per cent. on regular admission price for burlesque show patrons.

"A membership tax of 50 per cent. on fees of country, golf and hunting clubs."

This may sound extreme, but we have no special quarrel with the program. The taxes proposed do not grievously violate established principles of taxation. Just what they would produce from a revenue standpoint, however, is not easy to estimate.

The president declares politics adjourned, and it would doubtless be a fine stroke if society, as represented in what are characterized as "Pomeranian piffle parties" of the idle rich, could also be adjourned for the duration of the war, if not forever.

It is refreshing to note that T. D. Fletcher, in announcing his candidacy for re-election to the legislature, comes out into the open and tells the people what he will favor if elected. The News would probably not sympathize with all the items of Mr. Fletcher's outline of platform, but it distinctly approves his plan of giving the voters a chance to understand and decide among the issues involved. We feel sure that his courage in indicating expenses which may be easily lopped off will act as a sort of leaven of the political situation and may leaven the whole lump. It is exact pledges, we believe, instead of glittering generalities which the people will appreciate, and constructive ability, rather politics. Every candidate who thinks he knows of a method whereby the taxpayers' burdens may be lightened during the stress of war times should not hesitate to tell the people about it.

When the colonel undertook to camouflage the "taking" of Panama by setting up a paper republic instead of legally bargaining with the rightful owner of the territory, he sowed the seeds of future trouble. Although obliged to do so, this country finds it difficult to maintain respectful relations with a government unable or unwilling to discharge its functions.

Even the Nashville Banner seems a bit weary of the continued juggling with the suffrage amendment, but apparently it has not yet got around to the point of a heart-to-heart talk with its favorite candidate for United States senator.

Is "Garabed" to take its place alongside the sinkless ship?

BUS LINE TO THE HOTEL, MISTER?

(Copyright by the New York Tribune)

A GRATIFYING SITUATION.

The quarterly report of County Judge Will Cummings, which was printed in The News yesterday afternoon, presented a very gratifying showing indeed. It disclosed an actual balance of cash on hand and left over from the year's financial transactions, something almost unheard of in recent years. It brought out the fact that the county government is getting down to a war basis and learning to live within its income. The single department to overdraw its budget was that of the schools, and everybody knows how badly money was needed in this department. Happily, the debit was more than made good by the considerable balances from other departments.

As before intimated, the county judge's report is a very creditable paper, to himself and to the court over which he presides. It indicates a healthy trend in the right direction—the direction of solvency and economic progress. It has required long and persistent work to bring about the favorable showing. It is easy to spend money, and Hamilton county has been accustomed to spend it with lavish hand. The profligate spirit could not be checked in a day. But it has been made clear that by careful study and a firm purpose, much can be saved to the taxpayers without impairing the efficiency of our governmental functions. And the limit of progress in that direction has not been reached.

The fact that a surplus of $35,103.60 was distributed among all departments but one, indicates an intelligent and comprehensive supervision. We believe it manifests a care in handling the county affairs which the taxpayers will appreciate. It will awaken their interest and enlist their co-operation in effecting other economics. It will give hope that an improvement of our financial situation and a measure of relief to taxpayers are not impossible, if the good management now in evidence, is continued and developed. The fact that Hamilton county has rounded out a year with money left in the bank carries a message of good cheer to its citizens.

AMONG THE BRETHREN.

A yum-yum reunion is indicated in this from the Memphis Commercial Appeal: "Oh, but the dear girls will have lots to tell to the marines when the gallant chaps come home again!"

This from the Rockwood Times illustrates the difficulty of starving out a country editor: "We're getting so used to corn muffins three times a day that personally it does not matter to us if no more wheat is sown."

No claim of infallibility is put put forth in the following from the Polk County News: "Mistakes don't make hay stacks. If they did the News outfit would be a great big stack of hay and we would be feeding 'white faces' in place of sluckers."

Strikers can't get much comfort in the following from the Clarkville Leaf-Chronicle: "The man repsonsible for stirring up a labor trouble today is fairly entitled to the iron cross from the kaiser and the double choss from the American people."

The following testimonial to a Chattanooga doer of the word is from the Murfreesboro News-Banner: "Bear in mind please that Col. Richard Hardy is to be an honored guest of the patriotic rally on the square tonight. Col. Hardy will make the principal address of the evening. He is a big gun and you can't afford to miss hearing him."

In the following extract the Kingsport Times manifests much interest in the conversion of royalty to democracy: "There'll be epoch-making significance in King George's celebration of the Fourth of July. And if he would only try to climb a soaped pole or catch a greased pig, like a true democrat, it would be funnier than the time he fell off his horse."

According to the following from the Morristown Gazette the Fourth of July celebration at the shipyards will be a direct challenge to the U-boats: "Celebration of July 4 this year will be notable by the launching from the American shipyards of the largest number of ships of the greatest aggregate tonnage ever put into the water in one day. Ot least eighty-nine vessels, with a capacity of 437,886 deadweight tons, will be launched."

It is clear from the following extract that Editor Slack, of the Johnson City Staff, knows the game: "If a candidate hasn't any constructive policy to offer the county voters, he can fall back upon the 'knocking' plan, a favorite method to create prejudice. Hammer the other fellow and disparage him for everything you are worth. The voter is not discriminting, and won't notice that you haven't any goods to deliver yourself."

In the following extract the Cleveland Herald records its recognition of the universal need: "Tennessee should not forget nor fail to elect a legislature that will stand pat on ratification of nation-wide prohibition, but then she will not fail to do that. In the meantime, men of intelligence and ability so far as possible should be chosen, who will be on the job when it comes to other important matters, such as economy and tax reforms."

The following from the Copper City Advance indicates the care being employed by the government to see that we are kept cool: "The food administration is making a careful survey of the national ice situation in order that it may be prepared to meet any sudden shortage in particular communities. The destruction of ice plants by fire, breakdown of machinery, or the exigency of the weather may at any time cause a serious shortage."

Some idea of your patriotic duty may be noted in this extract from the McMinnville Standard: "An American correspondent tells us that our boys in France are always smiling, even when they enter the trenches, when they charge and when they return from battle. If they can face death with a smile certainly we can do our part at home without grumbling. And that part consists in producing all possible, consuming as little as necessary and buying war savings stamps with our savings."

The adjournment of politices was not intended for the special benefit of any particular candidate or candidates according to the following from the Columbia Herald: "This is a free country. Any qualified eligible citizen has a right to run for governor or senator. All desiring to do so can submit their candidacies to the tribunal of the people and at the same time be absolutely loyal to the nation. No man has or should have a divine right to the senatorship or the governorship in this or any other state."

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the United States senate has even the Nashville Banner "stumped" if we are to credit the following: "Hope deferred has again made the great heart of woman suffrage sick. For reasons not altogether understandable to the public at large, the senate again postponed a vote on the submission of the proposed federal amendment. It would seem that both sides are just a little 'skeert' as to the outcome and dread the final test."

The Despised Victorians.

(New York Evening Post.)

Who but a Victorian—early, middle, or late—would dare at this time of day to defend the Victorians? It was like that impenitent sinner, Mr. Asquith, to essay the task. The subject of a recent lecture of his at Oxford was "Some Aspects of the Victorian Age." It was a Romanes lecture—the name itself a reminder of the ridiculous dabbling in science, and the absurd belief in human perfectibility, prevalent in the reign of the Philistine queen. About her and her banal period, our free and young geniuses have been setting us right for several years past. With them, "mid-Victorian" is about the most deadly form of insult that can be hurled. They have rung scornful changes on the mixture of pruriency and puritanism which strangled art and stifled the intellect fifty years ago. It was after reading one of their oracles that a weary critic was heard to say: "Yes, it is clear that the Victorians didn't know anything, and that these new lights know everything—except the Victorians."

Mr. Asquith was perfectly aware that everything he said would only deepen the contempt of the literary cub-lions of today for the barren and perverse art and letters of the half century before they were born. He addressed an audience of more than 3,000 in the Sheldonian theater. The shameless creatures applauded him continually. The cheering was loudest at the very beginning, just after the chancellor of the university, who presided, had said: "I should like to make one thoroughly irrelevant remark, and it is that among the aspects of the Victorian age there is none which this university and, I believe, every section of the public, regard with so much abhorrence and disgust as the gross and gratuitous defamation of the character of our public men." This was an obvious reference to the filthy slanders with which it was lately sought to smear Mr. Asquith, Lord Haldane, Earl Grey and others. Being of manifestly Victorian sympathies, the audience was sufficiently alert of mind to catch the point and sufficiently decent in its instincts to acclaim the sentiment.

Himself a product of late Victorianism, Mr. Asquith in his own person demolished one of the favorite neo-myths about the Victorians. What we mean is that he proceeded to show that he was tolerant, and also that he was able to make distinctions. Haven't we heard a thousand times that the Victorian age was narrow-minded in the extreme, intolerant as a very part of its smugness? And, of course, it never did know bad art from good, and mixed up literary values fatuously and exasperatingly. Yet in fact Mr. Asquith displayed an ability like Huxley's to understand another's point of view, and to make allowance for it; and went on to discriminate between one Victorian and another very much as our youthful Intelligentzia picks its dainty way between Chekoff and Andreieff.

In short, this unabashed Victorian lecturer on the Victorians refused to put any sort of precise label on the age. He saw it as a period of infinite variety. If there was complacency, there was also revolt. If there was a steady effort—sometimes a remorseless effort—to assure the commercial and financial primacy of England, there was also the beginning of the humane movement in behalf of the sons and daughters of misfortune. If many Victorians were tempted to say that they had much goods laid up for many years, there were not wanting prophets to require their soul of them. Ruskin, Carlyle, Matthew Arnold were perilous companions for a generation that merely wanted to wax fat—if any generation ever did.

At one point, Mr. Asquith was positively cruel. He spoke of present artists and writers as "post-Victorians." But, in fact, have they any other name to go by? They have not created an age of their own; they simply tag on after the age which they affect to despise. It is as post-Victorians that posterity will locate them—if, indeed, posterity is curious to know just where they come in. Mr. Asquith's hope, in closing his lecture, was that the post-Victorians might be able to make a contribution comparable to that of the Victorians to "the things that permanently enrich and exalt mankind." If this was not secretly malicious, it was the setting of a severe standard and a hard task. For it would mean that somehow our latter-day novelists were to get the ear of the entire English-speaking world as Dickens and George Eliot did; that the issue of a volume of free verse was to be an event to be watched for as used to be the appearance of new poems by Tennyson and Browning. We can imagine our contemporary writers going far, but not so far as that. They do not lack in audacity, but their carrying power seems rather slight. They are entirely ready to create all things new, but the obdurate and tough old world is not plastic to their fingers. It is a sad fate for them to contemplate, but we fear it is the best one that awaits them, to have the niches where their busts will stand labeled "post-Victorian."

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