

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

PEACE PROBLEMS

The war brought us numerous problems. We went at it with enthusiasm, and raised men and money without stint. We spent the money in the same enthusiastic way, just as though it were our money and we were out on a lark to show the Huns what we could do when we really cut loose. And to use a famous classical phrase, "We got Heine's goat." But now comes "the morning after," and piled on top of the problems of war we have those of peace which are even greater, because war left disorder and chaos.

When we entered the war there was the element of adventure in it, but that is not one of the elements of peace. It has rather been replaced by the drudgery of rebuilding and paying the debts. It is going to require more real courage, more strenuous work, more thrift, and more sacrifice on our part to reorganize our government, clean up the mess and pay the bills than it did to carry on the war. It is going to require not only sacrifice but economy and sound horse sense. We borrowed all the money for conducting the war, spent much of it carelessly, wasted some of it by bad judgment, and grafters grabbed a lot of it, but now we are facing the task of paying the debts. It is not a job that tends to inspire great enthusiasm, but it is our task and we must do it. So let's go at it sensibly and methodically, quit wasting and meet the situation.

Here is some of the data that we must use in the solution of this great problem which is big enough to command the best there is in every one of us.

At the close of the Civil war the national debt was about \$2,775,000,000 or \$80 per capita.

The present national debt is about \$24,700,000,000 or \$225 per capita.

In the Civil War there were about 2,800,000 Union soldiers. In the World War there were about 4,800,000 Americans.

In the Civil War the base pay of a private was about \$13. In the World War the base pay of a private was \$30.

In the Civil War there was no service bonus paid. In the World War there has been a bonus of \$60 paid.

In the second year after the Civil War we paid out a total of \$21,000,000 for pensions, hospital treatment and administration for the veterans; in the twenty-fourth year, \$92,000,000; and last year, \$223,000,000.

For the present fiscal year and for 1921 the amounts to be expended in behalf of World War veterans will be approximately as follows:

	1920	1921
Compensation for death, disability, hospital care, etc.	\$135,000,000	\$197,865,600
Family allowances	48,000,000	
Regional offices		1,250,000
War Risk Bureau, administrative	15,852,806	10,324,400
Vocational education	38,000,000	125,000,000
Hospital construction	9,950,000	84,000,000
Care of hospital patients	17,166,187	40,400,000
Total	\$263,968,993	\$458,440,000

In the second year after the Civil War we paid in soldier benefits an average of \$7.50 per soldier, or about \$60 per capita of population.

In the second year after the World War we will be paying in soldier benefits, exclusive of any contemplated bonus, an average of \$95.50 per soldier, or over \$4 per capita of population.

According to W. C. Rucker of the war risk insurance, there are 641,900 World War veterans dependent upon the bounty given by the government for their future existence. The annual cost will be \$325,000,000, Rucker figures.

DEDUCTIONS ON REDUCTIONS

Ever since the signing of the armistice, we have been promised reductions in the cost of living, but so far we have taken it out in promises while the prices have steadily increased.

When the coal strike came on, the Attorney General with a great flourish, said he would bring the miners and operators to terms and make them sell coal at a reasonable rate. Coal is higher than ever and what was done would be a joke if it were not a tragedy. We are now paying thirty cents per pound for sugar, which the government might have purchased for six and a quarter and delivered to the people for twelve, but the opportunity slipped by and the people must suffer in consequence. The people will pay hundreds of millions into the coffers of Great Britain because of our dilly dally tactics.

Cotton cloth is now selling at the former price of silk because the cotton growers of the U. S. did not have a regulated price, as wheat and other commodities did. And the result is that big signs are posted in the cotton belt, "Grow less cotton and get more money," while the dear people pay the bills and the promised reduction in price never comes.

During the war we heard a whole lot about the great scarcity of leather. We were repeatedly told that shoes were high because of the scarcity of leather and were to conserve as much as possible. Now early every magazine is advertising leather overcoats for men, women and children, and loudly praising the fine quality of leather in the coats, while shoes continue high because of the great scarcity of leather.

Production is interfered with in all lines, transportation is blocked, living costs soar, while the people we elect to manage our affairs at Washington continue to jangle over whether we shall be American or take over the management of the world and try to make connection with Mars. What we need is some real statesmen with broad enough vision to see and comprehend our problems; some men who have courage and sense enough to do the thing that needs doing regardless of personal interests or what the grandstand may think. We are not going to get any reduction in living costs or have any settled conditions until our representatives at Washington quit playing politics and do things in a business way.

This is the season for cleaning up. Alma will be just as neat and clean as the citizens make it. Now lets all get busy and make it the cleanest city in Michigan. Why not? It is our home town, and it reflects our sentiments on two commodities, cleanliness and Godliness. The more we have of these the happier we will be and the better we can live.

There seems to be quite a clamor for light wine and heavy beer. In this connection it is quite pertinent to ask who is pushing this move and why? Who will be benefitted one cent aside from the fellows who make and sell it? And then again who will be injured? This is simply another demonstration of pure selfishness.

Don't you feel just a little bit worried about the future of America when you read every day about strikes, riots, grafting, robberies, home wrecking and murders. Don't you think every one of us has a responsibility of citizenship that should make us give our best service instead of indifference?

The farmer who left his farm tools out of doors all winter can now gather them up and scour the rust off by actual use, and get them ready for another coat of rust next winter. To be sure a coat of rust costs more than a tool house but who cares for expenses these days?

INTERESTING PAPER

Mrs. Ed. Hannah Gives Excellent Paper Before Civic League.

The following paper by Mrs. Ed. Hannah before the Civic Improvement League at its meeting of Friday, May 7, will prove highly interesting to Alma people, containing as it does a strong message for a cleaner, more beautiful, and busier Alma: "Every one should be concerned with the beauty of the city or community in which he lives. Examples of improvement of buildings and their surroundings are much in evidence in Alma. As a League let us lend aid here and there. This is not a service to be done by the few willing workers but an open field where in all good citizens may co-operate by cleaning and beautifying their own house-nook, by agitating the exterminating of weeds and all foul growth. We should educate ourselves to the aesthetic influence and economic value of bird life in our trees. We should preserve and care for our beautiful trees. They plead for themselves. In them the song-bird cradles its fledglings; beneath them we enjoy the cooling shade; their presence graces the most magnificent architecture.

"Let us seek to establish improvements and make ourselves alive to all the best interests of our city. You say 'All this has been done.' Do it again, telling off the years in verse, each year a stanza into itself, a tale full of achievement, adding improvements plus, until Alma may be termed a charming residential park, a wholesome, lively, business center, glittering with activity, and rated as a gem of community value, a spot of beauty studding as it does this magnificent landscape of productive country.

"Topography places us in the center of Michigan. Figuratively speaking we are the heart of a great commonwealth. Our surrounding farm lands send forth a fair percentage of products. Our city with railroads and truck transportation veins the district in every direction with commerce. This is like the flow of blood through its canals to quicken the body; we are the heart of our body. This is our endeavor—to have a city clean and sanitary with substantial buildings, playgrounds and spirit of brotherly love, a reaching out to this great human world of ours, giving our best not only in money but in our strength and affection. Where need of kindness and sympathy call, give words of cheer, encouragement and commendation. Welcome the stranger and speed well the parting guest. May our efforts be so directed that Alma shall become known and well loved as the human heart of our splendid state. Success in such achievement will not be the result of continuous knocking but of individual attainment, of each citizen's doing his or her utmost, working in harmony or goodnatured difference with our leaders, ever mindful in giving to let it be of our best, in judgment, service, and support. May the soul of our city awake, that we may learn to know ourselves, our worth and thus become true leaders in all that is finest and best in civic progress."

COMMENCEMENT

College Will Graduate Twenty-four This Year.

Commencement week this year is to be exceptionally fine and unlucky will be the alumni or student who misses it. The Reverend Samuel S. Palmer, D. D. will deliver the commencement address. Rev. Palmer is pastor of the Broadstreet Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. He is an alumnus and trustee of Wooster College and a man in touch with the educational work of the day, recognized as a leader not only in his state but throughout the country as well. Rev. Palmer is described as a speaker of exceptional power, having a church membership in Columbus of two thousand people. We may congratulate ourselves on being able to secure such an able speaker for our commencement program.

The other events on the commencement calendar are also of high rank and should draw many old students back. Sunday, June 6, the farewell communion service will be held at the Presbyterian church. On that Sunday evening President Crooks will deliver his annual Baccalaureate address. Monday morning the final chapel service will be held, at which the letters will be awarded. Monday afternoon the Kindergarten will hold its class day exercises. Monday evening the senior class will present its class day play. On Monday morning, also, President and Mrs. Crooks will give their annual senior breakfast. On Tuesday the Board of Trustees will meet, the "A" men will hold their annual spread and at noon the Alumni Luncheon and Reunion will be held. If it is at all possible a baseball game will be arranged for Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday night the President's reception will be held. On Wednesday morning the Commencement exercises will be held, with Rev. Palmer as the principal speaker and on Wednesday noon the regular Commencement luncheon will be consumed.

GREAT SUCCESS

The musical comedy, Miss Cherryblossom, given last Friday night at the high school auditorium under the auspices of the Young People's Class of the First Presbyterian Church was a great success in every way for it proved to be an entertainment of high class, exceptionally well rendered. The scene was laid in a tea garden in Tokyo, Japan, hence the stage was most beautifully decorated with an abundance of cherry blossoms and other garden scenery and was lighted by Japanese lanterns. One of the prettiest features of the whole comedy was the band of Geisha girls in Japanese costume in their folk dances and songs, and the boys' chorus was also very good. The part of Miss Cherryblossom

was well taken by Marie Myers who with Don Smith as Jack, the hero and her lover, delighted the audience by a fine interpretation of their roles as well as by their songs, both solos and duets.

"Mr. Adolph Roth and Mrs. Floyd Maxwell, as Harry and Jessica, played their parts admirably and proved very effective in rounding out the action.

The part of Togo, a sort of Pooh Bah, was excellently handled by Mr. McDonald, a student of Alma College. Those familiar with "The Mikado" saw the similarity in both roles, and Togo came off with high and haughty honors.

Kokomo, the obsequious inn keeper, played by Chet Robinson, was kept busy bowing and scraping, much after the fashion of Koko in "The Mikado." His portrayal of the part was exceptionally fine.

H. L. White played the part of Worthington, the crooked secretary, and took the part well.

The entire comedy was entertaining and amusing and the manner in which it was staged reflects great credit upon the actors themselves, and also upon Miss Joan Sherman who directed it.

OBITUARY

John Palmer was born in Devonshire, England, December 8, 1862, and died at his home May 7, 1920.

In 1863 when he was eight months of age his mother sailed from Plymouth, England, with her family for America where she joined her husband who had come before. They were six weeks on the water and John took his first footsteps on board ship.

They located in Oakland county, Michigan, where they lived until 1880 when he was seventeen years old and he again removed with his parents to Gratiot county to what is known as "The old Palmer Place."

He assisted the rest of the family in founding the home. When he was twenty-two he spent one year as an attendant at the Eastern Michigan Asylum at Pontiac. He was compelled to resign this position on account of not being able to withstand the confinement. He returned home and purchased the farm now owned by A. A. Florian, which he cleared and put in a state of cultivation.

On August 23, 1890, he married Helen P. Parsons. In April, 1893, they exchanged the Florian place for this farm where they have resided for the last 27 years, he having lived in this vicinity for the past forty years.

To this union seven children were born, Ernestine Irene, Milton John, Iva Spurrell, Jennia, Harvey George, Stanley Ernest and Paul Ivan, all of whom are at home except Ernestine, now Mrs. Howard Johnson, near Shepard and Iva, now Mrs. Dennis Robinson, near St. Louis and survive him with the widow, one granddaughter, Irene Helen Robinson, two brothers and two sisters, George of St. Louis and William, Annie and Mrs. C. P. Faucett all of Alma. Many other relatives and a host of friends are left to mourn his loss.

He is preceded by the better land by his father, mother, two sisters and one grandson. He was the youngest of his family. He was a

firm believer in the right, although not professing to be faultless he was honest in every word or deed. His life was devoted entirely to his home and family.

The funeral was held on the 10th of May from the family home and the body laid to rest in the cemetery where relatives and friends are already sleeping.

The services were conducted by Dr. Frank Jackson, rector of St. John's church, Alma. Four of the members of St. John's choir, who are also students of Alma college sang three hymns, and Mrs. Jackson was the organist.

Say Pan-Dandy when you call for bread.—b4-13-c

"We Picked Up Seven Large Dead Rats First Morning Using Rat-Snap."

So writes Mr. B. E. Carpenter, Woodbridge, N. J. "We lost 18 small chicks one night, killed by rats. Bought some RAT-SNAP and picked up 7 large rats next morning and in 2 weeks didn't see a single rat. RAT-SNAP is good and sure." Comes in cake ready for use.

Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by E. C. Clapp, C. Murphy, and R. Eichenburg.—adv.

H. M. Page and W. F. Markham

Real Estate, Farms and City Property

Rooms 7-9, Opera House Block ALMA, MICH.

New six room house on Eastward, \$2600.00, \$400.00 down balance monthly payments.

A small place on Grove, \$1200.00, \$100.00 down, balance like rent.

A fine 10-bottle soda fountain at one half value, used but a few months.

Strictly modern 6-room home on Wright avenue at a bargain. Can use an auto on this one.

A good stock of general merchandise to trade for a farm.

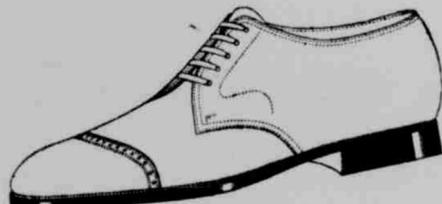
A small home on Windsor avenue, can sell this one at \$700.00 with \$200.00 down, balance monthly.

A fine large stock of general merchandise bought at old prices to sell at invoice. Might take farm for part of this one.

Several good farms at cheap prices.

We would like to list a few more farms as we expect some customers from Illinois soon.

Page & Markham



Mr. Man ==

The new arrivals in Famous Bostonian Oxfords are now on display and more nifty styles in footwear, could not be offered you. Come in and try on a pair and be convinced.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN

ANNOUNCEMENT

I wish to announce that I have purchased the Eckert Meat Market on Superior street and I am prepared to give the people of Alma a first class service, in Fresh, Salt and Smoked Meats, Poultry, Fish and Produce. I solicit a fair share of your patronage.

JOSEPH GROVER

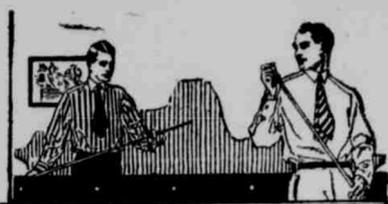
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