

The Knoxville Independent

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718 GAY STREET.
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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its folds!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight;
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, red and blue and white,
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
Clarifies all else beside—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Rose-red and blood-red the stripes forever gleam;
Snow-white and soul-white—the good forefathers
dream;

Sky-blue and true blue, with stars to gleam bright—
The glorious guidon of the days that shatter through the night

Your Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drum beat as hearts beat and fingers thrilly pipe!
Your Flag and my Flag!—a blessing in the sky;
Your hope and my hope—It never hid a lie!
Home land and far land and half the world around,
Did Glory learn our glad salute and ripples to the sound!



Entered at the postoffice at Knoxville, Tenn., as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates, by mail, one year, \$1.00; six months, 50 cents; three months, 25 cents; single copies, 2 cents.

"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take a touch sought which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln, Hon. Coln.

MORE UNIFORM LAWS NEEDED

Defect in Workmen's Compensation Act Pointed Out by National Industrial Conference Board.

That there is a distinct lack of uniformity in workmen's compensation laws in this country is emphasized by the national industrial conference board, a co-operative body composed of representatives of national industrial associations, organized to provide information on matters that affect the industrial development of the nation. In a summary of a report on the legal phase of workmen's compensation acts in the United States, the board says:

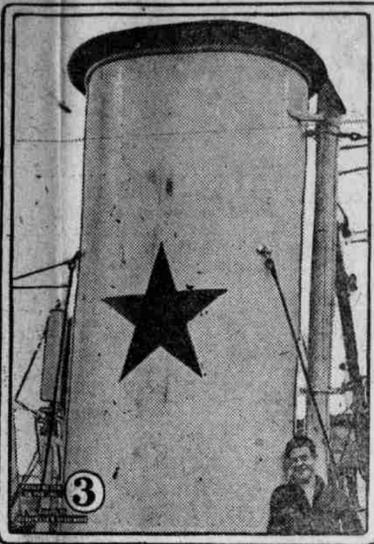
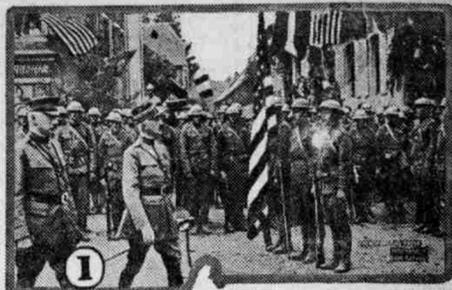
"More than two-thirds of the employers of this country are now included under compensation laws of one sort or another. There is, however, no uniform basis for determining just what employees or classes of employees shall be included. In numerous industries, particularly agriculture, compensation acts do not apply to the small employer. The effect of this is, of course, to exclude a considerable proportion of the country's workers from the benefits of workmen's compensation. Domestic and casual labor is usually excluded.

"In eight states workmen's compensation acts are compulsory upon the employer. In 24 states he has an election, but if he does not accept he forfeits some or all of his common law defenses in any action for negligence. In 23 states the employer likewise has an option; in Texas he is bound by his employer's choice. In Arizona compensation is compulsory for the employer but not for the employee.

"Neither employer nor employee may raise objections on the other's behalf; they cannot attack the validity of an act which affects the right of the other party but not their own.

"In 25 states the employer affected by compensation acts must either insure his liability or demonstrate his financial capacity for self-insurance. In certain states contribution to a state insurance fund is obligatory. In all cases the employer is primarily liable for the payment of compensation unless he either is required or elects to pay a fixed premium into a state insurance fund. His personal liability is not relieved by insurance with private underwriters."

Wherefore the board decides that to secure greater uniformity in compensation acts "an organized effort toward concert of action by state boards and commissions is essential." And it is suggested that "the states should promptly undertake, under expert guidance, the establishment of a permanent, scientific, uniform system of compensation statistics" that "compilation of systematic and uniform accident data would exercise a powerful influence on legislative ideas of the relative hazard of occupations and permit the just extension of the compensation principle to many workers now arbitrarily excluded from its terms."



1—Old Glory implanted on German soil for the first time, at a review of American troops in Massevau, Alsace. 2—Wounded Arab soldiers of the army of Hedjaz being removed after a battle with the Turks. 3—Funnel of American torpedoboot bearing the star that is awarded each of these vessels that has met and destroyed a submarine.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

Allies Continue Their Advance in Picardy Steadily but More Slowly.

ROYE AND NOYON IN DANGER

First American Field Army Is Formed—Situation in Austria and Russia Improved—Man-Power Bill Introduced in the Senate.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Moving more slowly but steadily and with determination, the allies last week pushed the Germans further back in Picardy. General von Boehm, the Hun "retreat specialist," having been placed in command on the Somme front, put up an increasingly strong resistance to protect his withdrawal, and the fighting became rather localized. The fiercest struggle was toward the south end of the battle line, where the French were forcing their way toward Noyon. Overcoming tremendous resistance, they drove the Germans from most of the massif or heights of Lassigny early in the week, and also moved forward in the Oise valley. Then they gained a secure footing on the Thiesscourt plateau and thus dominated most of the country northeast of them for miles. This movement and the unceasing pressure of the British from the northward imperiled the enemy's position in Roye, although he clung with desperation to that city and to Chaules further north. Along much of the line he was holding he had the advantage of the old trenches and wire entanglements built by him prior to July, 1916.

Whether Von Boehm would elect to try to make a prolonged stand there, or fall back on the much stronger Peronne-Noyon line was not revealed, but observers believed he would choose the latter course, and the fact that he was withdrawing his troops north of Albert strengthened this view. He evacuated the towns of Beaumont, Hamel, Serre, Puisieux au Mont and Bucquoy, taking up positions on heights more easily defended. Along the Somme, on both banks, the British, with the able assistance of some American troops have been advancing slowly, taking Bray and Etinehem.

In the advance on Roye and Noyon from the southwest the French have been fighting over extremely difficult ground with numerous ravines that furnish cover for the innumerable machine guns the Germans have been using. But the French kept bringing up their artillery and cleaning out these nests, and long before the end of the week they had taken Ribecourt, on the Oise, and had Noyon under continual fire, rendering it almost untenable.

On the Soissons-Reims front the fighting was mostly confined to repeated but futile attacks on the Americans at Fismes, Fismette and the neighboring region. Artillery of both sides was very active along the Vesle river.

Although the Picardy offensive was slowed up somewhat, army officers see no indication of a letting down on the part of Marshal Foch. On the contrary, they predict that another great drive will come soon, either in Flanders or between the Oise and Soissons, and expect movements of far greater scope in the near future. The German high command seems to have accepted defeat and to be trying to get out of its difficulties as best it may. The effect of this on the morale of the soldiery is quite evident in the prisoners taken, and its effect in Germany is reflected in the press, which admits failure on the west front, as elsewhere.

Early in the week it was announced that the First American field army, of five corps, had been constituted with General Pershing as commander. It is understood that this army will by itself hold the eastern part of the line, to Alsace, and some officers believe an all-American drive east of Verdun may come soon.

Geneva dispatches said the Austria-Swiss frontier was closed for some days and all trains were full of Austrian troops going to the Italian front, which was taken to mean another coming offensive there. However, the Italians were ready for it and daily improved their positions, especially in the mountains.

In Albania the Austrians evacuated all points held by them south of the Semeri river.

An amazing development is the seizure of Baku, center of the Caspian sea oil district, by a British force which made its way up through Mesopotamia and Persia.

The parlous condition of the central powers resulted in a "kaiser conference" at German main headquarters which was attended by the rulers of Germany and Austria and their chief advisers and by representatives of the Turks, Bulgarians and Russian bolsheviks. The internal situation in Austria-Hungary especially is growing worse—or rather better—daily; an explosion there almost any day would not greatly surprise anyone. Bulgaria shows signs of breaking away from its confederates, and as for Turkey the general public knows nothing of what is going on there or what is expected.

The situation in Russia, including Siberia, also is improving, for the forces opposed to the bolsheviks are growing stronger and amalgamating. The possibility of establishing an eastern front that will seriously worry the Huns is being considered, especially since the "supreme government of the northern territory," embracing half a dozen districts, has declared itself opposed to the Germans and ready to fight them. Possession of the port of Archangel and the Murman coast gives the allies an inlet for troops to help this movement. That Germany recognizes the menace is evident from the facts that she is sending more soldiers from the west front to Russia, and has ordered Finland to prepare to make war on the people of Murmansk and the allies there. Dispatches from Helsinki declared the Germans intend to occupy Petrograd, though what they would gain by possession of that hunger-stricken city is not apparent. Lenin and Trotsky and their soviet government were reported to have fled from Moscow to Kronstadt, the great fortress near Petrograd, and to have placed the execution of power in the hands of a triumvirate composed of Lenin, Trotsky and Zinovieff. Lenin also issued a manifesto urging the pitiless annihilation of all counter-revolutionaries.

Moscow being admittedly in the control of the counter-revolutionists, the German embassy also fled from that city to Pskov, which greatly perturbed the German press.

The diplomats of all the allied powers, now living on warships at Archangel, have demanded of Trotsky an explanation of his threat that Russia would declare war "against Anglo-French imperialism."

The first American regiment sent to Siberia, the Twenty-seventh regular infantry from Manila, landed at Vladivostok Thursday, and other Yankees are on the way.

The Czecho-Slovaks in eastern Siberia now have the assistance of British and French forces which landed at Vladivostok and joined them in the Ussuri river valley. Those in western Siberia were last reported as engaged in a desperate battle with a large bolshevik army.

A long step forward in the moral support of these fighting Czechs and of their fellow nationals who are in rebellion against Austria-Hungary was the formal recognition by Great Britain of the Czecho-Slovaks as an allied nation and of their armies as an allied force regularly waging warfare against the central powers. It is hoped and believed America and other allied nations will follow the example of Great Britain.

Last week's dispatches told of furious and bloody riots against the Germans in several Russian cities, caused by the attempts of the Huns to seize foodstuffs.

The activities of German U-boats off the Atlantic coast have grown so annoying that the cabinet is said to have devoted a long meeting to discussing them and the ways of combating them. The submarines, in addition to sinking a number of steamers and attacking others, in some cases only a few miles from the harbor of New York, also destroyed a considerable number of fishing vessels off New England. Several fights with these U-boats were reported and it was believed that at least one of them was sunk. What was believed to be a gas attack on the coast guard station and lighthouse on Smith's Island, South Carolina, in which several men were overcome, has not yet been explained though the theory that the poison gas came from a submarine was discarded. Presumably the fact that our naval vessels are pretty busy on convoy duty accounts for the comparative immunity of these U-boats along the Atlantic coast.

The steady decline of the German submarine campaign is emphasized by the official reports on sinkings and shipbuilding for July. The allied and neutral shipping sunk during the month amounted to 270,000 tons, compared with 534,839 tons sunk in July, 1917. During the month the allied nations constructed a tonnage in excess of 280,000 tons that destroyed by enemy operations.

The administration's man-power bill extending the draft age to eighteen and forty-five years was reported to the senate Thursday and that body is expected to act on it very speedily. Chairman Chamberlain in reporting the measure said General March told the military affairs committee that he believed 4,000,000 Americans under one commander could go through the German lines whenever they pleased and that if the ages are fixed as asked, the voluntary enlistment system automatically ends. He also said all the men called for active service under the amended act would be in France by next June. The new American war program, it was revealed, calls for 80 divisions, or about 3,000,000 men, in France and 18 more divisions in training in America, by June 30, 1919.

Mr. Chamberlain told the senate that President Wilson's program called for concentration of American forces on the western front, including Italy, and that the theory of the fighting in the future is that we must force the issue and win on the western front.

The bill as reported contains a work or fight provision to which organized labor, through Samuel Gompers, has filed emphatic objection.

The immediate need for more fighting men induced the president to issue on Wednesday a proclamation calling for the registration, on August 24, of all young men who shall have become twenty-one years of age between June 5 last and that day. This extra enrollment, it is believed, will include about 150,000 men, one-half of whom are fit for military duty.

Chairman Kitchin and other members of the house ways and means committee being wedded to the idea that the best way to raise more revenue is to increase the excess profits tax, rather than to impose a war profits tax, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo was compelled to go before the committee with a mass of figures to sustain his contention that the war profits tax method is the best and only fair one. In reply to Kitchin's assertion that a war profits tax was "only camouflage to let out the big fellows" the secretary produced figures to show that in a great majority of cases the war profits tax would fall more heavily on the large concerns than would the excess profits tax, which, if fixed at 80 per cent as the committee proposed, he said would touch not more than one of the large corporations. He favors the continuance of the existing excess profits tax, with corrections but without increase. He also urged heavier levies on unearned incomes than on earned incomes, and the imposition of a tax upon servants as luxuries.

The secretary impressed on the committee the necessity of passing the new revenue bill before September 23, the date set for launching the fourth Liberty loan campaign, saying that further delay would jeopardize the ability of the treasury to sell sufficient treasury certificates to finance it in the intervals between the Liberty loans. In Washington most of the delay in passing the measure is expected to develop in the senate.

No Woman Workers at Night. In Wisconsin a ruling of the industrial commission has been made that no night runs shall be given to woman workers on street railways.

Plans Political Party. The Minnesota Federation of Labor in its thirty-sixth annual session at Virginia, officially threw its hat into the political ring with the passage of a resolution ordering the calling of a caucus in St. Paul, August 24 next, for the organization of a separate labor party and the nomination of a complete state ticket.

Urges Socialization of Industry. The British labor conference unanimously adopted a resolution for the socialization of industry.

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Our Day

by Wilbur D Nesbit
Author of "Your Flag and My Flag"

The banner breaks in glory on the breeze,
The trumpets sing from all their brazen throats
A chorused chant of thrilling harmonies,
The drumbeats throb amid the ringing notes—
An echo, but a growing echo; yes,
An echo that is flung from hill to plain,
An echo that shall never grow the less,
Born from the chord that was not struck in vain.

The diapason of the booming guns
Blends with the shriller sounding of the cheers—
Ah, this had been foreheard by those great ones
Who planned the structure in the former years,
Who dreamed and dared, and gave of wealth and life
That this great nation-song should never cease,
Who blent the surging song of somber strife
With all the after croons of honored peace!

And so today the southland and the north
Clasp hands with their blood-brothered east and west
And in the mighty song their lips send forth
The fullness of our faith is all expressed.
And deeper than the very deepest chord
Are the foundations laid in days ago
When men for hearth and home and manhood warred—
The truths our nation has been builded on.

And higher than the farthest reach of song
That quivers in the bosom of the sky
There flames the flag of faith above the throng—
The flag whose plan and purpose cannot die.
The flag of promise floats from sea to sea,
The bugles shout in answer to the drum
And send a sense of strength to you and me
From days that were, and are, and are to come!



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