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CO-ORDINATION.

From Thursday (Daily.)
Doubtless many a meal was slighted in the senate restaurant at the national capitol yesterday while Secretary Baker and Senator Chamberlain lunched together and discussed the Oregon senator's proposed measure for the creation of a war cabinet.

The public has discussed these two men so much during the past few weeks, weighing criticism and defense as each was offered, that it might have been less surprised to learn that they had engaged in a wordy encounter at a chance meeting than to read that they had met by appointment and lunched together amicably.

It is reassuring to know that after a series of more or less heated interchanges of an official character, they still are able to meet without seconds for a sane discussion of their differences and a wholesome effort to arrive at that solution which will be best for the country's interests. It is indicative, too, of the spirit of service which exists in America's governmental circles and always has done so in France, for instance, some expert swordsmanship would have punctuated the investigation which Senator Chamberlain's committee has been conducting for weeks.

And as for lurching together, the principals, in France, could not have been brought into the same restaurant together without precipitating an embarrassing and scandalous scene.

Senator Chamberlain, according to the account he gave The Associated Press in his conversation with the secretary, improved the opportunity to tell Mr. Baker that the senate's military committee is working with a desire to strengthen the administration for the conduct of the war and not to hinder it. This is a point which supporters of Mr. Baker persist in ignoring.

The chief difference between us," Senator Chamberlain explained, "was that I believe affirmative legislative action is necessary and Mr. Baker does not. I asked him to think it over and suggest any changes in the bill he might desire. The committee is not wedded to any particular plan but we believe some legislation to establish centralized authority with legal control is necessary."

There are dozens of instances which have shown the need for such centralized authority to co-ordinate the various war activities. Necessarily and naturally their paths cross. There is duplication of effort, conflict between priority orders, delay in important work because each of two or more departments depends on the others to perform duties which lie in the neutral ground between the limits of their various organizations.

It is to bring system and order in such instances that a supreme war cabinet is proposed. The proposal is not, of itself, a reflection on the efficiency of any single department. Co-ordination would be needed if every activity in the nation's complex war-making machinery were functioning properly within its own limits of authority.

Secretary Baker believes the changes which have been made or determined upon in the war department since the need for co-ordination was pointed out will solve the whole problem. Senator Chamberlain believes a properly authorized and legalized war cabinet still will be needed to coordinate the centralized war department and the other war activities into entire co-operation. Mr. Baker does not deny the necessity for co-ordination, but he promises to effect it without the assistance of the proposed legislation.

There is nothing to do now but wait for him to make the experiment and hope that he may win success and that the costly errors which in the past have been due to lack of co-ordination may not be duplicated.

supply. Excessive cold such as has been experienced within the past twenty-four hours has increased the demand on several occasions and only the fact that the highways were not made impassable by heavy snows has enabled the coal dealers to supplement their ordinary stocks by drawing coal from nearby wagon mines. This situation is more fortunate than safe. It argues strongly for purchases of household coal next summer. If a sufficient demand could be created during the warm months this year to keep the nation's mines busy continuously, there would be little danger of a coal shortage in America next winter, no matter how great the demand may be then.

ITALY IN LEAD.

The progress of the fighting in Italy during the months that have passed since Cadorna crossed the mountains and ventured into Austrian territory has demonstrated beyond question the superiority of the Italian soldiers over those of Austria-Hungary.

It was only when the Germans reinforced their allies that Cadorna was turned back. It was a mixture of German military strength and German socialist propaganda which drove the Italians westward in their famous retreat. It was Italian desperation, bravery and patriotism which stemmed the Teutonic tide at last and it is the brilliancy of Italian fighting which has dealt defeat after defeat to Austrian forces during the campaign on the northern front along the Piave river.

The Italians have fared less fortunately with the Germans than with the Austrians, and it is well that British and French veterans are at hand to help guard Italy and France against the Kaiser's own armies.

The mountain positions taken from the Austrians this week by the Latins have figured prominently in the dispatches before. They have been the scene of other heavy engagements and were lost by the Italians in stubborn fighting which was decided only by the presence of overwhelming numbers of Austrian reinforcements.

If the dispatches are to be believed, and there is no reason to disbelieve them when so many points to the same conclusion, the Italian record would exhibit little difficulty in accounting for the Austrian armies alone, could a decisive engagement be fought with the enemies on an equal footing at the start.

If the score of the armies in the great war were being compiled like the standing of a baseball league's various teams, Italy would top the second division with a safe lead over Austria.

TRUE TO FORM.

Because of the inefficiency of the city council and because its members were ignorant of the duties which are imposed on them by the fact that they hold official positions, the quarrel over rates for electricity and steam is about to be thrown into the courts with the city's position about the least desirable it is possible to conceive.

There can be little doubt that the company will be able to convince the court that some increase in rates is necessary. That much has been admitted generally by citizens. But because the council is unable to determine the proper limit of the increase it has adopted an ordinance granting more than it is in this ordinance.

The adoption of this ordinance follows the informal approval of a schedule of increases which never was investigated by the council with a view to determining its fairness until after it had been in force for more than a month.

The whole transaction, as far as the council is concerned, has been characterized by a child-like ignorance and neglect of official duty and responsibility which would be shocking but for the fact that it is perfectly true to form.

GUBERNATORIAL TIMBER.

Discussing the coming state campaign, some Iowa newspapers have mentioned C. S. Harper of Ottumwa as a possible candidate for the republican gubernatorial nomination. Although Mr. Harper has given no intimation of his desire to seek political honors, this is an appropriate time to record the fact that the voters of Iowa would display an admirable sense of wisdom, should the opportunity be offered, by nominating and electing him.

"will serve to support the coming social revolution in Europe."
Truly, this is taking in a large bit of territory, if all Europe is meant. Russia, to be sure, is in the throes of what may be called a social revolution as well as anything else. Just what a genuine social revolution might be is a little difficult to determine. We read about it in socialist literature and apparently it will do with a million-fold which it re-creates all who survive its inauguration as equals in mental, moral, physical and other attributes. In the process, too, it will wipe out jealousy and selfishness along with the thought of private ownership. Indeed, it will destroy the personal equation entirely.

Of course the reign of socialism in Russia has not done that. Indeed, it has not started to do it, for it has substituted chaos for a sort of order, anarchy's red flag for the symbol of authority, mismanagement for a sort of government and survival of the strongest for a creed that sought to recognize personal rights. Crime is unbridled, murder is too common to provoke comment, robbery has outstripped all other arts, and the Russia of today presents the most striking picture of anarchy's high carnival the modern world has been permitted to view.

Months ago, while still there was a semblance of order in Russia, Premier Kerensky confessed to the world at large the country's inability to continue a factor in the war against the central powers. Since then armies have been disbanded, laws have been erased, discipline has been thrown to the winds, munition manufacturing has ceased, and Russia is divided into a dozen factions.

The commander-in-chief of the armies which exist only for plunder of their own land declares war on all the world, and the socialist council to which he owes his commission orders the mobilization of a red army "to support the coming social revolution in Europe."

The Russian armies, in their most recent starts, have scored notable victories—they have shown themselves able to retreat farther and faster than their German and Austrian enemies could move in following them. They have progressed homeward was due in part to their forethought in discarding weapons and other useless impediments as they ran. Naturally, these retreating armies were compelled to pass and hamper them considerably in what might otherwise be a more nearly even trial of speed.

On the showing they have made in the past year or so, however, the Russians cannot be recommended very highly for offensive warfare. If Europe's social revolution must await their coming, some mental revolution must take place within the brain of the red army and its recruits must be taught to believe that home, safety and immunity from Prussian guns lies to the west instead of the east.

AMERICA'S AIM.

In his admirably frank and inspiring address to the farmers of America, published yesterday, President Wilson urged proper attention to the necessity for victory over Germany as a matter of self-protection. This was peculiarly an address to Americans, as distinguished from the addresses to the world at large which he has read before congress and that which he sent to Pope Benedict. It was a heart-to-heart talk among the people of the United States.

It placed particular stress on the fact which has been given a place of secondary importance in several of the president's references to America's purposes in the war. It said in so many words that we are fighting in defense of America and her institutions, her form of government, her people, her homes, her firesides. Incidentally, to be sure, victory over the Kaiser will, of course, be a boon to democracy, but the fact that appeals and must appeal to every loyal American citizen was stated thus by the president:

"Germany's hands of violence had been laid upon our own people and our own property in flagrant violation not only of justice but of the well-recognized and long standing covenants of international law and treaty. We are fighting, therefore, as truly for the liberty and self-government of the United States as if a war of our own revolution had to be fought over again, and every man in every business in the United States must know by this time that his whole future fortune lies in the balance. Our national life and our own economic development will pass under the sinister influence of foreign control if we do not win. We must win, therefore, and we shall win. I need not ask you to pledge your lives and fortunes with those of the rest of the nation to the accomplishment of that great end."

America's aims are no less high because they are for America's future. They are more understandable, however, more practical and better calculated to rally to the support of our armies every patriotic American with every ounce of energy he possesses, than if they were described merely as defense of democracy in the abstract.

SHATTERING MORALE.

Whatever may be the ultimate truth about the strikes in Germany, it is apparent that work has been halted at least for a time in a number of industries which are of vital importance to the government and the army, that the production of munitions has been reduced, that there is a well-grounded desire among the Germans and the working classes for a peace which does not contemplate extension of German frontiers, and that the temper of the proletariat is working toward the stage at which revolutions are proclaimed and empires are upset.

It is apparent that the militarists and annexationists played their trump card without taking a trick when they circulated an appeal by General Hindenburg, urging the strikers to return to their tasks and labor for the triumph of Kultur and the glorification of their armies. The Hindenburg appeal has proved potent on other occasions; it may win out this time, but

the fact that it was not effective immediately gives ground for the belief that some time it may fail altogether.
Much as we would like to accept at face value the maximum figures on the number of strikers and the most thrilling stories of the uprising, The Courier is forced to credit the London correspondents in Holland who incline to the belief that the German government has taken advantage of a condition which is not actually critical and has permitted stories of an alarming strike crisis to reach the outside world in furtherance of the familiar German plan of encouraging the empire's enemies to believe in a prospect of revolution which really can not be realized.

The fact remains, however, that the semi-official reports of the condition place the number of strikers in Berlin at 120,000 and deny that the movement has spread to any other points in the domain of the Kaiser. Unofficial dispatches quote larger figures and give detail in describing strikes in Hamburg, Kiel and a dozen other centers of industry. If these dispatches are wrong and the semi-official reports are either correct or an exaggeration of the condition, the publicity campaign must have been organized with an extreme measure of care which hardly would seem justified by the results.

For the people outside of Germany, particularly in those countries which are at war against the Kaiser, which are well acquainted with Teutonic methods to permit their joy over an awakening of the German people to lull them into an unwise assurance that victory over the Kaiser will come, after all, through revolution rather than through defeat at the hands of the allies' armies.

If we credit the stories of Germany's internal unrest at even half their face value we must conclude that the offensive and defensive strength of the empire and its armies is touched in a vital spot. Such a condition within the empire can not make for the loyalty which an army and navy need at their backs to encourage them in battles with determined, well-trained foemen.

Germany, cowed and with the spirit of revolt crushed beyond hope of revival, can not be depended upon to bring the German armies. Morale, the indefinable spirit which imparts to an army a strength beyond its leaders' hopes, must come from behind the lines as well as from within the hearts and consciences of the fighting men themselves. If the support of the home folks is lacking, the German army has little to spur it to heroic fighting save lust for battle and iron discipline. Belief in the justice of their cause, which possibly may have inspired some of the Kaiser's soldiers earlier in the war, has suffered some terribly hard blows since America entered the war and inaugurated a world-wide, open-minded discussion of all that the war means.

DER TAG.

(From Saturday's Daily.)
Germany's ruthless submarine warfare is a year old. Twelve months ago yesterday it was begun, and Von Tirpitz told the German people England would be forced to surrender within six months. "Der Tag" was set defiantly for victory over Germany as a matter of self-protection. This was peculiarly an address to Americans, as distinguished from the addresses to the world at large which he has read before congress and that which he sent to Pope Benedict. It was a heart-to-heart talk among the people of the United States.

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LOYALTY.

Iowans of German parentage organized a patriotic society in Des Moines yesterday, setting an example worthy of emulation in every state.
It draws the line, too, between German-Americans and American-Germans. Without entering into the discussion of which nation's name should come first in the hyphenated title, citizens of Iowa whose parentage is German can announce their loyalty by subscribing to the resolutions adopted at yesterday's meeting and by aligning themselves with patriotic Americans who have pledged their loyalty to this country and its government in renouncing any lingering claim Ger-

many may have had on their affections.
It is not asking too much to insist that this be regarded as the test of loyalty at this time. Citizens of America either are loyal or disloyal now. There is no proper middle ground.

COAL—NOT PRICES.

"We proceeded on the idea that we wanted coal—not a lot of prices that no one would pay any attention to," is the succinct explanation by Polk county's best coal committee chairman regarding his action in establishing a flat retail price of \$5.75 a ton for Iowa lump coal in Des Moines. "Everyone can get coal now and not have to wait more than forty-eight hours for its delivery," the new controller added. "The former committee fixed a price of \$4 a ton at the mine mouth, but nobody could get coal. Consumers who own their own cars still can get the mine and buy their coal there at \$4."

Ottumwans are not concerned with the fights through which Des Moines has been passing during the winter, first with one coal controller and then with another. But they are concerned, and so is every coal consumer in Iowa, with the conclusion which has been reached not only in Des Moines but in other Iowa cities, and throughout the country—"We want coal, not prices."

America does not want to go through another such winter as that which is worrying along toward a close. If the mines of the country can be worked through the coming summer without interruption—that is, if the demand for coal is sufficient to maintain production and distribution there will be little danger of a repetition next winter of this winter's coal famine.

It is up to the consumer. Right now, while the shortage of the present winter still is with us, The Courier urges coal consumers in southern Iowa to buy coal next summer for next winter.

This advice was given in these columns last summer for the present winter, and the fact that it was followed by many consumers is in part responsible for Ottumwa's immunity from the coal famines which have been felt in almost every other Iowa city.

Less with the desire to say, "We told you so" than to emphasize the fact that extensive buying last summer would have gone far toward solving the winter's problem, we return here a part of an editorial which appeared in The Courier August 21, 1917, the day before President Wilson announced his tentative price schedule:

As the result of somewhat extensive investigations The Courier has made during the last few weeks, with a view to getting at the exact facts with regard to the coal situation as it concerns the individual household and coal consumer, we are in possession of the opinion that the greater portion of the furor which has raged so fiercely on the question of supply rather than that of price.

The price issue is a major one with the coal buyer who figures his year's wants by carloads or hundreds of car loads, and because of the dominating proportion of his purchases realizes gain or loss of hundreds or thousands of dollars as the result of minor fluctuations in coal prices.

But to the householder, with whose interests The Courier is concerned, the important question in connection with coal is: "Can I get it when I want it?" not "Will it cost \$5 or \$6 a ton?"

The average dwelling can be heated through the average winter by the burning of fifteen or eighteen tons of coal. Fluctuations of \$1 a ton in price during the winter means \$15 or \$18 expense to the householder, or perhaps \$3 a month during the coal months. This sum is small compared with the increases the same ordinary citizen is compelled to meet in other items of living expense, and in a great many instances he pays the advanced price without a murmur.

But he wants coal when he needs it. He prefers to pay \$15 or \$18 a year extra for it rather than risk cold, discomfort and sickness in his family as the result of inability to keep his home warm in winter.

And because this risk is a very present one this year, on account of the extraordinary demand for coal which exceeds the tonnage all the coal mines of America will be able to produce, The Courier urges its readers to buy coal for the winter without delay and at the present prices, rather than wait for government control to reduce the figures.

Children's Evening Story

The Giant Scarecrow.
Farmer Green always claimed that Mr. Crow was a ruffian and a robber. "That old chap has been coming here every summer for years," he said to his son Johnnie one day. "I know how he does it. He goes to the barn and he's the biggest one of all the crows that steal my corn."

That was Farmer Green's way of looking at a certain matter. But old Mr. Crow regarded it otherwise. He knew well enough what Farmer Green thought of his trick of digging up the newly planted corn. And his own idea and Farmer Green's did not agree at all.

Now, this matter was something that old Mr. Crow never mentioned unless somebody else spoke of it first. And then Mr. Crow would shake his head slowly, and sigh, and say: "It's strange that Farmer Green doesn't understand how much I help him. I'm as busy as I can be all summer long, destroying insects that injure his crops. And since I help Farmer Green to raise his corn, I'm sure as the horses that plough the field, or the men that hoe it, Farmer Green gives them corn to eat. But he never once thinks of giving me any."

You see, there are always two sides to every question and that was Mr. Crow's. But Farmer Green never knew how Mr. Crow felt about the matter. And every spring, at corn planting time, he used to set up scarecrows in his corn field, hoping they would frighten the crows away.

And so they did. At least, some of the younger crows were afraid of those straw-stuffed dummies, with their hats tipped over their faces or prices which may—and may not be won for the buyer of retail coal by federal intervention.
A few days after this was published, Dr. Garfield, newly appointed fuel administrator, began tinkering with the price problem to the exclusion of the problem of supply. He even warned against early coal buying and intimated that he would force prices considerably lower. After waiting several weeks in this manner—weeks which were too valuable to be wasted—he discovered that after all, price was the secondary consideration and his task had to do with obtaining coal.

There is ample time now for consumers to lay aside money with which to pay for next winter's coal supply next summer. The experiences of the present winter should be sufficient warning.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTE BOOK

BY LIT PAFB
The Park Ave. News.
Weather. Colder yet won you think its going to be warmer, and vice versa.

Sports. Lew Davis was at Puds Simkins house last Saturday night and it started to pour rain and Lew Davis stayed all night, and in the morning him and Puds Simkins had a flap cake eating contest at breakfast, which after Puds had ate 12 his mother "toddent give him any more, giving Lew Davis 2 more on account of him being a guest, making him win on a foul.

Leroy Shooter in a Assistid. Will jumping hitching posts and fire plugs on his way to school last Thursday morning, Leroy Shooter fell down and he did not get up, he fell down and he asked his mother if she thawt any bones was broak, wich none was, and his mother gave him a fixcuse note for Miss Kitty and he didnt get to school till the fizzeology lesstn was half way throo. Wich the next day Sid Hunt tried it, falling 3 times before he coud make a mark on his leg, and his mother gave him a fixcuse note for Miss Kitty and he didnt get to school till the fizzeology lesstn was half way throo.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
The Bird on the Telegraph Wire.
The little bird on the telegraph wire cheerfully sets and swings it dont give a darn if the wire busts or not.

And neither wood I if I had wings.
Military News. Company B had target practice last Saturday afternoon in the back alley, firing marblis at a yellow cat running along the top of fences. Lutenant Ed Wernick wood of hit it if the cat hadnded of dodged in a cowardly manner, and marblis back setting room window. Company B immedately retreated rapidly.

It may be possible for a national coal controller to pool all the coal producing and transporting agencies in America and effect a reduction in price. But such a reduction, if it is brought about, will be a small one as far as the small user of coal is concerned.
And on the other hand, it may not be possible to bring about any reduction. The appointment of a controller is an experiment and no one can foretell the success of the plan with any degree of accuracy.

The law of supply and demand is as immutable as the Ten Commandments. It has covered the coal industry for generations, and, in the last analysis, it will continue to govern it, whether federal control exists or not. If the demand exceeds the supply, some one must buy without coal, and the only way to escape the effects of a shortage is to buy now.

upon one side, and their empty sleeves flapping in the wind. That was through the valley. But old Mr. Crow was too wise to be fooled so easily. He would scratch up the corn at the very foot of the scarecrow—and chuckle at the same time.

It must not be supposed that Farmer Green did not know what was going on. He often caught sight of Mr. Crow in the cornfield. But it always happened that Mr. Crow saw him too. And Farmer Green could never get near the old rascal.

At last Johnnie Green's father spent a whole evening trying to think of some way in which he could outwit Mr. Crow. And by bedtime he had hit upon a plan that he liked.

The next day, with Johnnie to help him, he set to work to build a monster scarecrow. It was twice as high as the tallest man that was ever seen. And for a hat, Farmer Green set on a huge tin can which glittered near the sun shone upon it.

"That'll fix him!" said Farmer Green, as he stood off and looked at the giant. And as for his son Johnnie he danced up and down and shouted—he was so pleased.

But Mr. Crow was not pleased when he saw the great figure of a man there, with a tin can for a hat, glittering upon his head. And Mr. Crow noticed something upon the giant's shoulder that looked very like a gun.

The old gangleman swerved quickly to one side and never stopped his flight until he had reached the woods. And that night Farmer Green felt quite merry.

"I've scared that old crow away at last," he said.

bed service regulations, infantry drill regulations, signal book, interior guard duty, army regulations, map reading, hand grenades, bayonet drill and other subjects. We get good physical training along with the study and are off from Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock until Sunday at midnight.

Weather in Cold.
"We have had only one snow down here but it is very cold and disagreeable. We had to shovel snow out of barracks one morning where the strong wind had blown it in and my pillow and bed were covered when I woke up."

DINNER STORIES
The old lady was going to Pittsfield to visit a daughter, and took her seat in a railway coach for the first time in her life. During the ride the car in which she was seated was thrown down an embankment and demolished. Crawling out from beneath the debris she spied a man who was held down in a sitting position by his legs being fastened.

"Is this Pittsfield?" she anxiously asked.
"No," snapped the man. "This is a catastrophe."
"Oh!" ejaculated the old lady. "Then I hadn't oughter get off here!"

"Money Talks!" said the man who tries to be severely practical.
"Better'n that," replied Mr. Dustin Star, as he signed another Red Cross check. "My money has quit ordinary conversation and is learning to sing 'The Star Spangled Banner.'"

"What is more pathetic," asked the sentimental young woman, "than a man who has loved and lost?"
"Well," replied the man of experience, "a fellow who has bet about \$20 on a sure thing and found out that he was wrong is entitled to a nook at the wailing place."

"What did you get out of that will case?" asked the first lawyer.
"A hundred and fifty thousand dollars," replied the second lawyer.
"Good round sum, eh?"
"Ye, but I thought the old man left more than that."

Boxing with Bells for Blind Soldiers
Boxing is one of the favorite sports of blinded soldiers in St. Dunstan's England, where Canadian boys who have lost their sight are being re-educated.

The extent to which other senses can be trained to replace vision explains the eagerness of the Canadians to take up civil life. Boxing is possible for the men by the use of little bells on the wrists of the gloves, differently toned for theright and left hands. Hearing becomes so keen that it is easy for the men to judge the distance, and follow the motions of the sparring partners so easy in fact that spectators cannot be convinced the boxers are blind.

The Canadian boys whose re-education has been arranged for at St. Dunstan's by the military hospital's commission not only learn a new occupation but through training regain self-confidence and a firm grasp on a new life.

BOWLING TOURNEY ATTRACTS MANY
Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 2.—The tenth annual tournament of the International Bowling association will open here tonight and continue until February 11 with entrants from all parts of the middle-west participating. Tonight's program will be devoted chiefly to rolling by twin city five teams. One hundred and fifty-five men, 360 doubles and 670 singles events are scheduled on the program.