

# TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## CONTEST OF FARMING.

THE WAR is fast resolving itself into a contest in farming. The nations involved have fought to a standstill and cannot make any headway or dare retreat. They are in the condition of the man with the bear by the tail. He doesn't let go. His efforts to throw the brute were futile so the struggle could only end by some kind friend coming forward to assist in shortening the tail—behind the ears—of the ferocious brute. In this case there is no volunteer and the result is that both man and bear have to hold on a little while longer. Germany is sewed up by a fleet of dreadnaughts and sea-wasps while Great Britain does not strive to repress anxiety over the possibility of grave consequences from the submarine warfare. France is looking to England for ammunition and fuel, and Italy is begging for help of all kinds. The dislocated transportation has brought every nation to a realization of the fact that the future depends on the man behind the hoe, instead of the man behind the gun. The latter has been on the job for nearly three years and has been pampered and coddled with the best things of life in the shape of foods, but, with a limited production, the man in the trench is likely to go on short rations. That means that the fighting efficiency of all armies will be considerably reduced, if not actually destroyed, depending on the efforts of the men at home who are able to make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before. The farmer man is the man whose efforts will decide the war if the judgment of the best minds of Europe is to be accepted as a summary of campaign conditions. Bucolic temperament will be cultivated for therein lies the weakness or the strength of the future of the fighting world. No longer will the soldier, decked out in all the bravery of khaki and sidearms despise the man following the peaceful pursuit of cultivating a garden patch. Neither will the recruiting sergeant stand disdainfully aside as he orders his platoon to carry off the heavy footed agriculturist for assignment to some regiment at a foreign post. The situation has become so acute that the directors generally are thinking of sending back home many thousands of men from the firing lines who may employ their farm knowledge in the equally patriotic task of raising food for the fighting men and the hosts of munition workers who are an integral part of the war system. France has not been neglectful of the wants of the nation, and the very first week of the war, disposition of soldiers was made to the end that the cultivation of the soil would not be interrupted for any prolonged period. In the hours of respite from the trenches the men from the first line are sent back to the rear to till the soil with a hoe and endeavor to add to the quota of Mother Nature's contribution to the national food supply. Germany has been employing its prisoners of war and tens of thousands of Belgians for the same purpose, while England is just beginning to wake up to the gravity of the food problem and preparing to raise more oats and potatoes, and fewer deer and foxes on the ornamental estates that occupy five-sixths of the tight little island. Hence it appears that the man with the hoe will share in the glories of victory without any of the risk of having an arm or two, or a couple of legs blown off by a grenade from the trenches of the enemy.

## FIRST AND LAST IN ONE BOAT.

A COMPARISON of Russia and the United States would seem paradoxical at any stage but at the present time, while the former is harassed by war and internecine disturbances it is almost preposterous to essay a comparison. Yet a strong analogy is found between events of the past week in both countries. Russia is starving, notwithstanding it is the greatest grain producer in the world. One section reports over 36,000,000 pounds of wheat waiting for transportation, while another section is beset by hunger with famine claiming many victims. A pound is the equivalent of 36 pounds avoirdupois, which shows the surplus grain crop is approximately 21,000,000 bushels, which would feed a couple of million people for more than two months at a stretch. Russia cannot shift the supply from one province to another owing to a shortage of railroad stock and the absence of railroad transportation adequate to the demands. There is where the analogy ceases. Russia has the food and also offers a good reason for not moving the food where it is wanted. The United States has both the food and the railroads and is unable to make both ends meet. There must be something radically wrong with the economic system that permits the existence of such a state of affairs. This country has more miles of railroad and a greater number of railroad cars per capita of population than any other country on the face of the globe. These systems of transportation are supplemented by efficient systems of water transportation that should bring each and west into close touch. In the abstract there is no excuse for a food famine in this country any more than there is for a similar stringency in Canada or any other part of the continent, always excepting Mexico, where the people seem to like starvation and grow fat on hostilities.

Our national pride will not swell up over the comparison with Russia but will the men at Washington who are supposed to have charge of transportation matters take the lesson to heart? Two years ago, when Canada had the greatest wheat harvest ever known in the history of the northwest, unscrupulous speculators were not allowed to get their avaricious grasp on the foodstuff of that country, for the first edict issued during the harvest was that not a pound of foodstuffs from the Canadian northwest could be sold in the open market. The millions of bushels were commandeered by the British government to be disposed of at the discretion of the imperial authorities and the man who grew wheat and oats and rye and barley was told he would receive a fair price for his produce and not a cent more. There was no cornering of either the market or the means of transporting the crops. What the imperial government said went as law, and what the imperial government told the railroads was not subject to appeal. One stroke of the pen saved Canada from paying tribute to middlemen and assured Great Britain of a positive tonnage of breadstuffs at a reasonable price. This is a lesson that should not be lost on the

republic that is supposed to represent a government of the people and by the people. The region of high prices and famine conditions is from Dyea, Alaska, to Calais, Maine, on that side of the border which boasts of living under the Stars and Stripes.

It takes money to buy an onion scented breath these days and the lunch counter patron must fall back on the old reliable coffee bean which can be depended on never to give the wearer away.

"O death where is thy sting; O grave where is thy victory?" would be a suitable epitaph for the much vaunted Zeppelins which seem to have taken themselves off into hiding.

Instead of planting flowers that never grow in this rigorous climate it is well for the Tonopah householder to turn his attention to spuds.

One good result of this food agitation is that the benighted east is waking up to the value of the western style of buying vegetables and fruits by the pound.

Talk of holding quarterly sessions of the United States court in Tonopah suggests the question of what has become of the appropriation for a federal building?

With quicksilver selling for \$135 and better, manganese at 8 cents a pound, molybdenum at \$1.80 per pound, magnesite at \$25 a ton and whatever you choose to ask for potash, the western mining country has not much of a kick coming. The best feature is that you don't have to starve anybody to find a market for your products at these prices. The mining man's money is the cleanest money in the land.

# QUEENSLAND FLOODS CAUSE GREAT LOSSES

(By Associated Press.)

BRISBANE, Australia, Feb. 26.—Recent floods, which caused the drowning of about 60 persons and great loss of property in central Queensland, were probably the most destructive which ever occurred in Australia. The last weeks of December and first weeks of January are normally the monsoonal or wet season in the far north of the continent, but the last quarter of 1916 was one of unprecedented rainfall over eastern and northern Australia. Long stretches of country, where drought had been more severe than for a generation, were unable, when the rains came, to carry off the surplus water. The town of Clermont, the center of the Peak Downs district, which is noted for its rich pastoral and farming lands, and its gold and coal mines, was completely sub-

merged. The water from overflowed creeks overwhelmed the town, sweeping away buildings. Persons who were forced to fly to the roofs and upper verandas of dwellings were either washed from these places of refuge, or by the collapse of the houses, were flung into the tremendous current and drowned. Fifty persons were drowned at Clermont, and there were fatalities also at Theresa Creek and Hughenden. Thrilling acts of bravery and sacrifice, when the water was racing down the streets of Clermont, were numerous. Among those drowned there was James Crawford, an ex-member of the state parliament. The property loss all told is placed at \$2,500,000. The loss in live stock was very great. A single sheep owner lost 10,000 sheep.

# GERMAN SOCIALIST BETRAYED THE CAUSE

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 26.—International socialism, though broken down by the war, will be revived and there will come a day when British and German socialists will sit at the table again together, says Henry Mayers Hyndman, the 75-year-old leader of the Social-Democratic party in England. At his unpretentious home in St. James Park, within a stone's throw of Buckingham Palace, in a study flanked by piles of books and newspapers, mostly American, the aged philosopher received a correspondent of the Associated Press and discussed some of the war's effects upon socialism. Notwithstanding his advanced age, Mr. Hyndman is active and looks strong, with a big face and white beard giving him a marked resemblance to pictures of the poet Longfellow. He is now engaged in reorganizing the Social-Democratic party in England.

"The war's immediate effect upon socialism is not apparent," he said, "but one thing is certain as sunrise, and that is that the war has taught the workers more than they could have learned in a score of years of peace. The war has made them think politically and when they leave the trenches it will be as new men. In other words, when the soldiers come back home they will be wiser men and will not be willing to go back to the hopeless chaos—they will demand better working conditions, will not permit what has gone into the hands of the state to be returned to private owners, especially the greater part of the improved machinery provided for by the state, which means by the people at large. We see a great strengthening of social democracy as a result of the war."

Then as if some happy thought had struck him, the socialist leader waved his arms to a map of the United States and exclaimed: "Even in America—individualistic America—this insistence on democracy is being felt more and more. This was shown in the passage of the eight-hour day for railroad employes. Monopoly had reached such a point in regard to the railroads that when the workers demanded better conditions and threatened if they were not granted they would hang up all transport, President Wilson, as the representative of the federal government, interfered

on behalf of the community and aided the men in obtaining by peaceful means what otherwise would have led to violence. It is an important economic advance that has been aided by the state.

"What has come to pass in the United States by peaceful means has only come to through war. I mean the gradual taking over of the railroads and public utilities. When the war broke out the capitalist system showed itself incapable of handling the community under circumstances which demanded great and continuous national effort. So the state stepped in and took the railroads and has since been commandeering and controlling nearly everything."

Mr. Hyndman was told that the question has often been asked as to why international socialism failed to prevent the war. "I'll also have to blame that on the Germans," he said. "If international socialism had any chance at all to prevent this terrible slaughter it lost it when the social democrats of Germany betrayed their socialist brethren the world over by voting for the war credits in the Reichstag. The socialists of the world recognized that the German socialists were the most important factor in internationalism."

"The German socialists broke down internationalism and have done more to destroy the faith of socialists in their own creed than anything else on this planet. The English socialists remembered this at the January labor conference in Manchester when they voted against an international socialist conference to take place at the same time as the peace conference."

Mr. Hyndman, who prides himself on the fact that in his writings he predicted the present war as far back as 1905. He has been a frequent visitor to the United States where he is known chiefly as one of the strongest opponents of the Boer war. It is estimated that 9000,000 Americans now play golf. What a surprising number of men that is to be able to get off any afternoon they wish.—Detroit Press. The two sides are so far apart in their peace proposals, it looks as if the entente and the central powers are not referring to the same war.—Galveston News.

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