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GET THE CITY OUT OF DEBT

WHEN THE CITY OF BOGALUSA officially began business it was necessary to borrow money, owing to the fact that the taxes for that year had already been paid to the parish. As a result the finances of Bogalusa has been such that it was necessary to borrow money that year. Within a short time, on December 1, the new Commission Council, will sworn in, and the Enterprise believes it would be a splendid idea to pay off the old debts, and start the new Commission Council out with money enough to run the city without borrowing money.

The extensions of the water system and the many other improvements which have been made during the past two years will be bringing in more revenue. The schools can be improved and there are many things which the Commission Council could do if they had the funds to do it with.

Today every man in Bogalusa is making more money than he ever made before. If not, there is something wrong with his business. This being the case, the idea has been advanced that by paying taxes on a ninety-five per cent valuation, which would increase taxes at the rate of \$12 on every thousand dollars' worth of property assessed, that it would put Bogalusa in splendid financial condition. Of course, raising taxes anywhere and any time is always more or less opposed, but if Bogalusa is to keep pace with the growth of our city it will be necessary to have sufficient funds with which to conduct the affairs of the city. We owe it to the present Commission Council, to the incoming Commission Council and to ourselves to place the finances of the city in a condition that will not interfere with the development of the city. The fact that the taxes for that year had already been paid in no way reflects upon the present Commission Council, but is the result of circumstances when the city was incorporated, the affairs of the city having to be run for six months before there was any money coming in.

REASON TO FEEL GOOD

EDWARD R. CASSIDY, who lead the ticket in the primary last week, has reasons to be exceptionally proud of the race he made. Besides being one of the largest tax payers in the city, Mr. Cassidy is one of the most popular citizens. In the precinct where Mr. Cassidy votes there were sixty-eight ballots cast, of which he received sixty-five, losing only three votes in the entire precinct. He also has reason to be proud of the percentage of the votes cast for him. With a total of about 500 votes cast, Mr. Cassidy received 76 per cent.

J. C. Mills, the only member of the present Commission Council, received only one vote less than that of Mr. Cassidy, and he likewise received 76 per cent. With Mayor Sullivan being unanimously re-elected, with Congressman Sanders getting every vote in the city save 75, Bogalusa is showing a remarkable record when it comes to casting her ballots. If the same policy was followed in future elections, Bogalusa would have a most conspicuous place in State, Congressional and parish politics.

PEACE MOTHERS AND SONS WANT

THE STARS AND STRIPES, the official newspaper published by the soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, says editorially about the ennemy peace offensive:

"Let the weak-hearted who are dreaming of a compromise; let the pacifists who are talking of a peace by agreement; let the sideliners who have had enough of war; let the secretly inclined pro-Germans who think this war should end without a decision—let them one and all know once and for all for the American Expeditionary Force there is no such word as 'Peace' with the Huns unbeaten. The man who talks of peace today except through victory, is a traitor."

The enemy peace offensive is likened to the action of German machine gun crews in the Vesle fighting, when they fought and killed American until they were surrounded, then shouted "Kamerad."

The mothers in France want the same peace their sons demand. All the courage of the ancient Spartan mother is in the hearts of the women of American.

The object of the Fourth Liberty Loan is to bring that peace—a just peace, a righteous peace, an American peace.

THE GREAT WORK which the ladies of Washington Parish are doing under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Sullivan is one which attracting great attention and when the ladies have completed their work, we are confident that it will compare favorably with that of any similar organization in the State.

You need not be surpriced when the great drive is ended to hear that the ladies of the parish raised enough to cover the entire parish allotment, and if the men do as well, you may rest assured that there will be a merchant ship or a tank named after Bogalusa or Washington Parish.

American Finds Italy's King a Royal Democrat



Hamilton Holt Interviews Victor Emmanuel at the Front, Where He Lives Rugged Life of a Soldier.

By GARRET SMITH.

An alliance with Republican France in the world war for Democracy is perfectly understandable to every citizen of the United States. In the case of our other chief Allies, however, there are still left some old-fashioned Americans, fed on the king-baiting school histories of a generation ago, who are a bit puzzled to find the country of George Washington lined up with the "king-ridden" nations of Europe.

But the King of Italy is not an old-fashioned King at all.

This view of Victor Emmanuel as a royal democrat is strikingly interpreted by Hamilton Holt, editor of The Independent, who has just returned from Italy, where he had a most unusual interview with His Majesty.

Mr. Holt went to Italy as the representative of the Italy America Society at the time of the celebration of the third anniversary of Italy's entrance into the war. He was received in Rome with much ceremony.

"Finally, after these formalities were over," Mr. Holt told me, "I was



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

conducted up through the northern provinces to the hills just behind the battle line. We stopped at a little villa belonging to a small wine merchant, which had been requisitioned for government use. There were two or three sentinels about the grounds and as many orderlies within. That was all, no other evidence that it was a post of any great importance. An officer led me up to a bed-chamber on the third floor and knocked.

Royal Headquarters Modest.

"Inside I was cordially greeted by a modest, middle-aged little man in a plain uniform that I could scarcely distinguish from that of a common soldier, no epaulettes, gold braid or medals, nothing but a ribbon showing years of service such as any soldier might wear. After a hearty handshake, he invited me to be seated."

That was the King of Italy as one Yankee saw him.

"There was not the slightest hint of royal ceremony about our meeting," declared Mr. Holt. "He simply ushered me into his apartment and invited me to sit down, as any private citizen would receive another. And it was a very simple little apartment with no hint of luxury about it. There was a simple bed, washstand, bureau and two or three little straight-back chairs—chairs that looked as though they might be of maple. I remarked on the simplicity of his quarters and he said they were much better than some he had occupied."

"In five minutes' time I had lost all sense of being in the presence of royalty. You know that ordinarily court etiquette demands that a private citizen shall not speak to a king in the course of an interview except to answer His Majesty. Before I realized it I had forgotten all about that convention and we were chatting freely, asking and answering questions back and forth and actually swapping yarns in good old Yankee fashion. He kept me talking for three-quarters of an hour and, of course, I had nothing to do with the length of the call, as I naturally followed custom to the extent of waiting for him to terminate the interview. The King speaks a perfect English, has a good sense of humor, enjoys telling a good story and enjoys listening to one. In fact the only dif-

ference apparent to me in our status as I look back on it was that such an interview was a very unusual experience for me, while it was not at all unusual for the King, and I forgot to be conscious of that at the time.

"Victor Emmanuel impressed me as a sort of combination of Colonel House and the late Frank R. Stockton. He is a man of simple and charming manner, without pose, who has thrown himself heart and soul into the cause of his country and is working for it night and day, as hard as any other person in Italy. But he prefers to stay behind the scenes while doing it."

A Hard-Working Monarch.

That this unceremonious reception of a representative of the American Democracy was no pose for theatrical effect is clearly evident from Mr. Holt's report of what he observed and learned of the King's daily routine. The Monarch has selected this little villa for his headquarters on account of its location in convenient reach of every part of the battle-line. Each morning he rises early, eats a simple breakfast, has a light luncheon put up for him, gets into his automobile and spends the day visiting some point on the line, conferring with the officers and talking with the soldiers, learning their needs first hand and inspiring them by his presence and his counsel. At night he studies the plans of battle for the following day and never retires without sending a letter to his family, to whom he is passionately devoted.

He has made observations of the battlefield from dirigibles and aeroplanes. At one time in 1915 he climbed to the snow-covered crest of Raucherkoel Mountains when the temperature was below zero in order that he might congratulate the Alpine troops who had just captured several Austrian positions.

Experiences Under Fire.

"In the course of our conversation," said Mr. Holt, "he gave me a graphic description of his experience in one town near the frontier. The Austrians discovered his presence in the town and began bombarding it. The King immediately withdrew from the town in order that, as he told me, he might not unnecessarily imperil the residents. What he did not tell me was that he departed from the town openly, for he was evidently much more concerned for the safety of the people than he was over the peril of his own life."

"He is very much interested in the mechanics of warfare. He described graphically the barrage drill of the Italian troops as he had witnessed it."

"He showed me with great glee a German cross from a captured airplane he had framed and hung on the wall of his room. He described the different designs he had seen painted on German planes and was particularly amused at one which had the design of a Teddy Bear."

His Democratic Traditions.

The King's ability to play his present role is the result both of his democratic inheritance from his Savoy ancestors and his Spartan upbringing. He was tutored by a stern, old army colonel, who, at the direction of the boy's royal father, treated him in every way like the son of a private citizen. He has ever since preferred simple, rigorous living. Hunting and mountain climbing are among his favorite pastimes.

"What did he have to say about the political and military situation?" I asked.

"You must remember," Mr. Holt replied, "that one cannot quote a King directly. While we discussed various phases of the situation very freely, I would not be at liberty to give a verbatim report of his opinions. In fact, he was careful in talking with me not to express himself positively on matters of state policy. When I encroached on such ground, he would generally counter by asking me what they told me in Rome about it."

An Admirer of America.

"For instance, I asked him if it was true that Italy desired America to send military aid to her. He asked if they told me that in Rome."

"Yes," I replied. "The King said that was right—Italy did want our aid. He said we could help particularly by sending them steel and coal."

"He expressed a great deal of interest in American affairs and the American attitude toward the war and kept me busy answering thoughtful questions about them. He expressed the greatest feeling of friendship towards America and appreciation for what we have already done in the war. He thought our efforts already made were marvellous."

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