

Poor Quality

THE LACLEDE BLADE

Entered at the postoffice at Laclede, Mo. for transmission through the mail as second class matter.

A. J. CAYWOOD.

Friday, January 5, 1917

Before and After Election

Last week President Wilson gave it out that there would have to be a bond issue of \$180,000,000 to meet the deficit in the running expenses of the government for the fiscal year, beginning next June. This week Secretary McAdoo gives it out that the deficit will be \$379,073,000 and that that amount will have to be provided in addition to the regular receipts of the government. Before the election it was daily given out from Washington that there was no deficit but every department had a surplus.

During the campaign Auditor Gordon and other members of the Major administration vehemently declared this state had no unpaid bills and there was no shortage in state funds. This week Gordon officially admits the state owes more than \$1,446,239, the unpaid bills being on file in his office, and further states that he does not undertake to estimate the amount of outstanding bills that have not yet been filed.

But he "kept us out of war," and Major built a \$30,000 dance hall at Jefferson City out of the people's money, so "we should worry."

Songs of Different Tune

The author of "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" passed away recently. That was the war song par excellence of the Spanish war, and the lilt of it put pep into many a soldier who fought for Cuba Libre. Those were the days when the United States had the respect of the world and we had a president who was not afraid to stand steadfast for righteousness. The author of "I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier" still lives. It is an appropriate whine for the administration now in control. The policy now is to dodge responsibilities, surrender known rights, and quibble about words. The navy is shorthanded, and the army cannot secure recruits because the leaders of the party in power are effeminate, vagarious, and inspire confidence in no man. Some of us are rolling up huge profits from the sale of food, clothing and ammunition to countries battling for a principle; more of us are feeling the pinch of hunger and chill of winter because prices have gone to Luciferian heights. The American people will have occasion for a tall amount of thinking during the next four years, and the result of their cogitations will give a pretty good indication as to whether our present political anemia is chronic or acute.

President Wilson sent a check for \$2500 to the democratic national committee as his contribution toward meeting the deficit in the committee's campaign fund. In the winter of 1914 he sent a check for \$25 to the associated charities of Washington to be expended on the bread line which grew out of democratic depression. Mr. Wilson believes his re-election is one hundred times more important than the stomachs of the poor, and it probably is—to him.

The High Cost of Seeing

\$3,500 is the strong sum that it cost Peter Zyla of Chicago Stock Yards to see the exposed ankle of pretty actress. It seems Peter had recently recovered \$3,500 from the Yards for the loss of his sight. The Yards, were skeptical and

staged a "movie" in Peter's backyard, and at a signal from the manager, the actress engaged for the occasion, flirtingly raised her petticoats—and—Peter suddenly recovered his eyesight. Now he must forfeit the \$3,500, but maybe it was worth it.

Laclede Boy to Aeronaut Post

The following newspaper clipping refers to the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Pennoyer, former citizens of Laclede, Ralph being a student in the Laclede high school. The family moved from here to Marionville, Mo., several years ago:

"Ensign Ralph G. Pennoyer, of the United States navy was transferred on Nov. 22nd to the naval aeronautic station at Pensacola, Fla., to take instructions in aeronautics. He was ordered to report at Pensacola on Dec. 11th for duty. The appointment to the aeronautic post comes as a recognition of and a reward for Ensign Pennoyer's record of service. Mrs. Jessie Pennoyer of Marionville, mother of Ensign Pennoyer, received the above information the first of the week. He was the only ensign of the service to receive the promotion.

Congressman Adamson's threat to spank the railroad brotherhood and the executive, reminds one of the small boy who legs it home to escape a thumping, and then stands in the window making faces at his pursuer. No such brave words as these were heard in September when the democrats were in mortal fear of defeat if they did not grovel before the brotherhood.

An alumnus of the University of Missouri has presented the athletic department of that institution with a fund for the purchase of loving cups which are to be given, annually to the athlete of the University attaining the scholarship during his University course. The presentation will be made at each commencement week. The scholastic average of the athletes of the University is above that of the men in the institution.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our gratitude and thanks to our many friends for their help and offers of help during the sickness and death of our little one.

MR. AND MRS. A. B. HENDERSON.

Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration upon the estate of Matthias S. Hoover, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned, by the Probate Court of Linn County, Missouri, bearing date the 18th day of December, 1916.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance, within six months from the date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate; and if said claims be not exhibited within one year from the date of the last insertion of the publication of this notice, they will be forever barred.

M. J. HOOVER, Administrator.

Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration upon the estate of Mary E. Cotter, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned, by the Probate Court of Linn County, Missouri, bearing date the 15th day of December, 1916.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance, within six months from date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefits of such estate; and if said claims be not exhibited within one year from the date of the last insertion of the publication of this notice, they will be forever barred.

W. S. COTTER, Administrator.

Notice of Final Settlement

Notice is hereby given to all creditors and others interested in the estate of Isaac E. Sights, deceased, that I, O. F. Libby, Executor, with the will annexed of said estate intend to make final settlement thereof at the next term of the Linn County Probate court, to be held at Linnus, Mo., on Monday the 12th day of February 1917.

O. F. LIBBY, Executor with the will annexed of the estate of Isaac E. Sights, deceased.

C. C. BIGGER Attorney at Law LACLEDE, - MISSOURI

DR. R. E. HAYS,

OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN

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L. F. MOORE, Ticket Agent.

OUR PUBLIC FORUM

Chas. C. Prouty

ON THE SHIPPER AND THE RAILROAD.



Chas. C. Prouty, while a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in discussing the relation of the Commission to the shipper and the railroad, said:

"The original purpose of the Interstate Commerce Act was to protect the shipper. The most eminent man who ever sat on the Interstate Commerce Commission was its first chairman, Judge Cooley, and very early in the history of that commission Judge Cooley published an opinion in which he said that the business of the commission was not to enable railroads to maintain reasonable rates, but to protect shippers against the imposition of unreasonable rates. Now I think since Judge Cooley published that opinion conditions have changed. I think that today it is just as much the duty of the Commission to see that the railroads are given reasonable rates which will yield to them a fair return, as it is to see that no unreasonable rate is charged the shipper, and I believe this is in the highest interest of the shipper himself.

"At the basis of all right thinking about this subject lies the fact, very often stated, very little apprehended, that the railroad is a public servant. The property is private property, but the thing done is a governmental function. It is done by the government in most European countries. Now, if the government is the master, and if the railroad is the servant, the servant cannot properly discharge its duty unless the master, instead of hampering and discouraging, sees fit to assist and foster.

"You understand that if the business of this country is to develop the railroads must develop also. You also understand that in the case of many railroad systems, and perhaps most railroad systems, their business is developed up to the point where but little additional business could be taken on, with the present facilities.

"Now where is the money to come from with which this is to be done? Where did the money come from that built the railroads of this country? It came from the private investor; it came from exactly the same source that the money comes which operates your business, which operates every other business. And why was that money put into railroads? It was put into railroads because the people who put it into those railroads believed that it would pay a return. This money which must be had by the railroads of this country has got to come from this one source—private investors. In the past, railroads have been able to borrow whatever their necessities required. Railroad stocks have been a favorite form of investment. Railroad bonds, next to municipal bonds, have sold higher than any other securities. Now, if that is to continue, it must be because the railroads make such earnings as will justify the investment."

OUR PUBLIC FORUM

J. S. Cullinan ON CITIZENSHIP.



Mr. J. S. Cullinan, President of the Texas Economic League, in inviting the people to study and discuss citizenship and to give special attention to the problems of government, said in part: "Before we can intelligently study so important a subject as citizenship we must first define it. What is citizenship? Who is the best American citizen? Search the statute books for a definition of citizenship and unless one is a member of the legal profession we immediately become entangled in a labyrinth of confusing and oftentimes contradictory laws, seeking to promote or restrain most every form of human activity, much of them good, some of them bad and others indifferent. But laws come and go; the Constitution is permanent. The preamble of our Federal Constitution states that our government is organized to give its citizens liberty and happiness. Read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and one cannot escape the conclusion that the best American citizen is he who is most free, patriotic, just, happy and active and who hands down to posterity a civilization more capable than he found it. The spirit of our country is freedom and no man can become a true American citizen unless he is free.

"Turning a moment from documents of State perhaps the best authority on citizenship, and one universally accepted by the public, is Webster's International Dictionary, which defines a citizen as 'A member of a State; a person, native or naturalized, of either sex, who owes allegiance to government and is entitled to reciprocal protection from it.' Further: 'A citizen as such is entitled to the protection of life, liberty and property at home and abroad.'

"We now have before us the authoritative definition of citizenship by both government and society and in order that the most humble citizen may feel perfectly free to enter into a study and discussion of this subject I will briefly outline my conception of what citizenship involves, for the work of the Texas Economic League will be in vain if the most lowly citizen does not feel free to give serious thought and expression to his obligation to government and his responsibility to his fellow men.

"Applied to able-bodied adult males, with whom I take it we will have chiefly to do, a citizen's duty, in return for the rights, privileges and protection outlined above, would seem to be: First, to expend sufficient labor in production, or auxiliary occupations, viz., manufacture, transportation and distribution, to support himself and his family in comfort. Second, conform to all laws framed in the interest of society under the Constitution. Third, contribute his just proportion to the maintenance of government in personal time, payment of taxes or, if need be, bearing arms in the defense of the nation.

"In reaching the above conclusions I have assumed that under our system of government citizens are owners in common and are entitled to the rights and benefits of government during the term of their natural lives and for such period only."

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