

SUNDAY MORNING MISSOURIAN
(MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS)

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ARE MINISTERS SLACKERS?

Among the persons exempted from military service by the Selective Draft Law comes the minister of the gospel. Without qualifications is this spiritual leader excused from bearing arms for his country, no matter what his denomination or creed may be. Students of divinity are also included in the list of arbitrary exemptions. Why is it that the minister is exempted from military service? Is it, according to the often-heard expression, because the minister is not able to stand the physical and mental strain of battle, having been softened by things spiritual? Is it that a minister would not do his part in exterminating the enemy, being guided by the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill"? Is it that the minister of the gospel would prove a slacker if military service were demanded of him?

Far from this. Cases are already on record where ministers have resigned from the pulpit to take up arms in their country's defense. But a war is not won merely by force of arms. He who would be brave in battle must be guided by a strong heart and clear mind, and filled with the conviction that he is fighting for the right. Never is man brought closer to God than when confronted by the grim reaper on the field of battle. And it is there, as divine minister of comfort and spiritual courage, that the minister is called to serve his country best.

But wars are not won on the battlefield alone. Unless the courage and spirit of those brave ones at home, who must bear the brunt of social disorganization and mental and physical strain when the flower of manhood is called from our industries into the ranks, is maintained, defeat will come when the men on the battlefield are still ready to do or die. The morale of the civil population is as important in prosecuting a successful war as the morale of the fighting forces. And it is the duty of the minister, as spiritual adviser of his flock, to instill the courage to bear burdens in anticipation of the future joys of peace.

Without religion there would be no civilization. And without the minister of the gospel, spreading the "tidings of great joy" among struggling humanity in war times, faint would be the rays of hope that the day shall come when "men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

EAST MEETS WEST

The East and the West have joined hands in furthering the safety of humanity and in hastening the end of the World War. With the announcement of the agreement of Japan and the United States regarding China comes the realization that the rumors of war between these two countries are put to rest, that the "yellow peril" is a thing of the past and that the efforts of Germany to create strife between Japan and this country during the present struggle have failed.

By recognizing certain special trade interests of Japan in China, this nation has set at rest the growing suspicion of the Japanese merchants that the United States would try to assume the lion's share of the vast commerce of China. The agreement of Japan to recognize the "open door" policy in China proves, moreover, that the Nipponese merchants are not trying to monopolize this market. Fears of a commercial war between the East and the West are thus quieted.

"The territorial sovereignty of China remains unimpaired," reads the official notice, thus insuring the continuance of this vast nation as a democracy of great possibilities. Assertion by Viscount Ishii that Japan does not "have any purpose to infringe in any way on the independence or territorial integrity of China" clears up another question that has stood forth in international matters of late. China will thus continue to deal with other nations as in the past, with the United States recognizing that "territorial propinquity creates special relations between countries."

The fact that first announcement of the new agreement came from Tokio may be resented by certain radical groups in this country. It may be the opinion of some that the people of the nation should have known more concerning the agreement before it was pledged. That it follows out the general desire of the 100,000,000 people of the United States for peaceful relations between Japan and the United States cannot be doubted. The executives of the state who represented this nation have long ago proved their loyalty to the best interests of their country, moreover.

As the war continues, the new friendship of Japan and America should ripen into a comradeship which shall do much to make future wars for trade or aggression impossible.

No one can deny the value of sincere sentiment in events which bring nations closer together. The Made-in-Japan banquet at the University of Missouri must be given a grain of credit in helping to bring about the fraternizing of Japan and America.

Ohio goes dry, New York enacts woman suffrage and returns to Tammany, New Mexico ousts booze, the I. W. W.'s wreck a troop train and Americans enter the firing line in France all during a week. Who objects to the monotony of life?

THE OPEN COLUMN

Athletics and War.

Editor the Missouriian: Individual records of heroism in battle prove that the athletic man makes the best fighter. It is the man who has been trained in organized fighting on the gridiron and diamond, the track and the field, who withstands the attacks of the enemy with the coolest mind and the steadiest hand. The aviators who have made the best records in fighting above the clouds have in the majority of cases been athletes.

It was for this reason that the President called upon the universities and colleges of the country this fall

to continue their intercollegiate sports, and not only to continue them but to increase the number of students taking part. For the same reason, and knowing that such men were most needed in the service of their country, the athletic coach at Yale announced that only men who had joined some branch of the service need appear on the gridiron for practice. The fact that training men physically is making them more fit as soldiers has been stated by military authorities of high rank.

With these facts in view, every person, both student and business or professional man who is not physically fit should feel it his duty in this present national crisis to equip himself to the fullest extent. The man who has been accustomed to work all day indoors without any open air exercise should hear the call of the golf links or the tennis court. He who would not indulge in the more strenuous exercises will find a wonderful physical stimulus in a cross-country walk, where there is plenty of rich, pure air.

Your nation calls upon you, men of draft age, to prepare to fight her battles. While waiting to be called into the national army, see to it that you are physically a man. E. R.

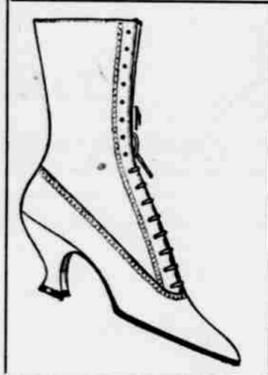
Prof. H. O. Allison to Talk at Purdue.
Prof. H. O. Allison of the College of Agriculture will lecture before the Indiana Cattle Breeders Association at their convention at Purdue University December 15. He will discuss rations in relation to fattening cattle.

Mrs. Mary Wilcox Operated On.
Mrs. Mary Wilcox was operated on for appendicitis at the Parker Memorial Hospital yesterday morning.

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L.W.W.'S TARRED AND FEATHERED

"Knights of Liberty" in Oklahoma Take Action Against I. W. W.

TULSA, Okla., Nov. 10.—Just what legal action, if any, will be taken by the county authorities relative to the work of the "Knights of Liberty" in flogging, tarring and feathering seventeen I. W. W. leaders here last night could not be ascertained this morning.

Price Building Nears Completion.

The work of installing fixtures in the storeroom next to the Boone County National Bank, will be finished by the end of the week, according to R. B. Price, Jr., Fredendall's Department Store, expects to move into the building not later than December 1. New mahogany showcases and many handsome fixtures are being placed in the building.

Professor Kerner Addresses Mothers.

Prof. R. J. Kerner of the history department of the University talked on "Our Interest in the War" at the meeting of the Mothers' Club of the Lee School, Thursday afternoon.

Silas Bent in New York.

Silas Bent, who was a member of the School of Journalism faculty in the first semester of 1908-09, is now on the copy-reading staff of the New York World.

M. U. Cattle to Chicago Exposition.

The College of Agriculture is planning to send three carloads of cattle,

including hogs and sheep, to the International Live Stock Exposition to be held in Chicago December 1 to 8.

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Be sure to hear Nora Bayes sing these stirring war-time songs

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