THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

FRANK FREYTAG,
Editor and Publisher.

NO. 408 FRANCIS STREET.
Business or Editorial, Main Phone, 186.

Terms of Subscription, One Dollar Per Year
Advertising Rates on Application.

Address all Communications to The Observer, St. Joseph, Mo.

(Entered at the Postoffice in St. Joseph, Missouri, as Second Class Mail Matter.)

A WAR LESSON THAT SINKS DEEP

"His Majesty's government give as their reason for entering upon a course of action which they are aware is without precedent in modern warfare, the necessity they conceive themselves to have been placed under to retaliate upon their enemies for measures of a similar nature."

In the note which the American state department sent to the British government protesting against illegal and unwarranted interference with American shipping occurred the above paragraph, and upon this particular paragraph the American note very suavely says:

"If the course pursued by the present enemies of Great Britain should prove to be in fact tainted by illegality and disregard of the principles of war sanctioned by enlightened nations, it cannot be supposed, and this government does not for a moment suppose, that His Majesty's government would wish the same taint attached to their own actions, or would cite such illegal acts as in any sense or degree a justification for similar practices in so far as they affect neutral rights."

The point is made neatly and with exceeding politeness, and for that matter it is noticeable indeed that the American note is phrased throughout with moderation and restraint. Had the American government been disposed to have been forceful, even at the root of a little unkindness, it would have added that Germany, in response to the American request, had offered to withdraw the submarine warfare on British merchant vessels, which imperils neutral vessels and neutral lives, on condition that Great Britain discontinue the practices of which the United States as well as Germany complains. It might have gone even further and added that the objectionable German submarine policy was adopted long subsequent to the equally objectionable British order in council of October 29, 1914, declaring subject to capture a conditional contraband cargo in a neutral ship destined for a neutral port if consigned "to order," "or if they show a consignee of the goods in territory belonging to or occupied by the enemy."

Regardless, however, of who was the original aggressor, and who is acting "in retaliation," the indisputable fact remains that both Germany and Great Britain in their announced policy toward neutral commerce, are following a lawless and high-handed course. The distinction between the two is that Germany offered to discontinue its violation of international law and neutral rights if Great Britain would do likewise. To this proposal the British government refused its consent and it is to that extent the principal aggressor against American rights on the high seas. But this no more excuses Germany than it would excuse Great Britain were the shoe in fact on the other foot. The United States, and all other peaceful nations, are entitled to doubt that neutral rights, as defined and guaranteed by international law, be respected by all belligerents. If they are not, if they are openly defied on the ground of alleged necessity or of alleged reprisals, then there is no law as between nations and anarchy is enthroned.

There is one lesson the war is teaching that must sink deep. It goes home to every nation that is keeping the peace. Naval despotism is as dangerous to the peace and rights of the world as odious and intolerable as is military despotism. And if there is to be "disarmament" following the war, as some have dreamed, it is just as essential that it apply to armaments for the control of the sea as to arrangement for the control of the land. The sea is, in theory, and must become and remain in fact, the open highway for the free and undisputed use of all peoples.

THOSE PULLMAN MENDICANTS.

No matter what eventually becomes of the government investigation of the Pullman car porters, wage question, the investigation will not be wasted as it has already brought out the information that in his first fifteen years of service a porter receives the stupendous allowance of $17.50 per month in salary. This will be real news to almost all of the people who read this article for most of them, no doubt, imagined that the porter got nothing in the way of stated salary.

But that is not all. At the end of fifteen years continuous service the astonished porter is rewarded for his long years of faithful service by a boost in his compensation which amounts to the striking figure of $1.67 per month. Obviously under such strenuous inducements it could be mighty difficult for a porter to throw up his job before he shall have attained the glittering award which the Pullman company hold out to him to remain.

Inasmuch as the average Pullman car porter works all night to keep from sleeping, and sleeps all day to keep from eating, one marvels what in the world he manages to do with all that money, especially when one takes into account the tips that come to him from passengers who know that if they are not generous in the matter of tips they will get no service, and that a porter is painfully subservient of the passenger who has no small change to spare.

Having granted this generous stipend to its porters, this multi-millionaire concern, the Pullman company, seems never to have had any further anxiety either as to the comfort of the public or the prosperity and happiness of the porters. Asked if he thought $17.50 enough to pay a man for a month's work, the general manager of the company replied that he could get all the men the company wants at that rate. He did not think that it was understood that the traveling public was expected to make up the difference between that sum and a living wage. He would not say that the company thought that the men were satisfied with that wage, but it had received no complaint. In fact, the general manager represented the company to be quite indifferent as to the sufficiency of the compensation it pays its 4,000 negro porters and its 2,000 conductors.

Of course the company's officers know that the public recognizes that it does not pay its employes living wages, and that travelers feel constrained, therefore, to fatten up their emoluments by generous tips. The company also knows that varying degrees of service are therefore given its patrons, that the passengers who are generous with tips get obsequious attention, while those who may be in no condition to sought up the coins are left to hustle for themselves. That is as notoriously the case that it most often seem that the company recognizes and appeases of the distinction between passengers.

Just what it is proposed to accomplish by this government investigation is not plain. Perhaps it may result in a minimum wage for Pullman employes, or it may result in a rigid congressional inhibition against tipping. We legislate against discrimination in every other phase of railroad accommodation. Maybe some one has an idea that congress can cure this evil in the same way. It is a system that contributes to a sort of mendicancy.

SHOULD NOT ENTER IN LOCAL POLITICS.

The Republican victory in Chicago the other day—for it was a Republican victory—had injected into the campaign by the Republican leaders a factor which is deeply regrettable, namely national issues and the Republican leaders put every possible emphasis on national issues which is denounced by all good citizens of all parties—but nevertheless with this result they won.

Many Democrats and Independent Republicans tried to protest this and direct attention to the local issues, to matters concerning Chicago and Chicago's city government and to their efforts they had the help of independent newspapers like the Herald and the Daily News which joined with them and asked that the best candidates be chosen regardless of party—but to no avail—national issues as promulgated by Republican leaders won the day.

And now what is the result?

The Republican national congressional committee at Washington sent a message to the successful Republican nominee in which message it is stated that the result of the election would "strengthen the Republican party throughout the nation and tremendously increase the chances of success in the presidential campaign next year." According to the Republican committee, national political issues were conspicuously involved in the Chicago election, the chief one being "the empty dinner pail," for which the Democratic policies were blamed. The committee says that it sent speakers into Chicago to discuss this and other national questions for the benefit of the Republican ticket.

Another Washington dispatch to the Tribune says:

"Accounts of the landslide for Thompson in the Chicago municipality election and of the defeat of Democratic by Republican candidates in scores of other cities proved the most disheartening political news to the Wilson administration since the congressional and state elections last fall. President Wilson received the returns of the Chicago election last night and examined with considerable care today the figures and the explanations of the Thompson victory emanating from various sources. It was learned that the president was visibly disappointed by the defeat of Dunne, but he declined to comment upon the Chicago and other municipal elections."

Republican papers generally throughout the country are heralding the "republican victory" in Chicago as a rebuke to the Democratic administration at Washington and a forewarning of defeat for Wilson next year.

It is those things that discourage citizens who realize how little national politics properly has to do with the issues involved in a city election and who would like to see such elections decided on local issues. Chicago Democrats who, on local issues, helped elect a Republican mayor, now find to their dismay that all unintentionally they have contributed by their votes to strengthen the Republican party and to bring worry and disappointment to a Democratic president. On the principle that a burnt child dreads the fire they will be chary, next time, about being public spirited and patriotic at such a great cost while the other fellows are playing practical politics.

THROWING FITS OVER LITTLETON'S "TREASON."

Almost the entire British press is throwing fits and other athletic stunts over what it is pleased to term the "treason" of Dr. Littleton, headmaster of Eton, and in so doing according to their comment Christian charity becomes foolish, visionary, fanatical and unpatriotic when applied to a country with which one's nation is at war.

Dr. Littleton's remarks constitute "dangerous and pernicious stuff," according to the London Globe, that from an "idyllic, arcadian picture, suggestive of little Mary and her lamb," suggests the London Evening Standard. And the Associated Press correspondence states that Dr. Littleton is being assailed on all sides for his unpatriotic statements.

And what has Dr. Littleton said? What treasonable criticism has he offered?

The particularly offensive part of his remarks is cited as follows:

"If we are going to act as a Christian nation, we are bound to apply to Germany the principle of Christian charity, on a scale to which we have never risen before. Our obligation is so to act that the German hatred of us shall be removed, that sixty million fellow creatures should be saved from the rule of a poisoned mind. If at the end of the war we say we are not going to part with a single inch of territory or a single penny, all I see say is that we are abandoning the principle of Christianity."

To an American neutral it seems strange that these words should have been made the target of such vigorous criticism, and especially that they should be repudiated by the press of a nation whose people believe they went to war as a question of principle to uphold the sacred nature of a treaty, a nation which an indignantly assails its enemy because, it claims, that enemy considered this treaty a "mere scrap of paper."

Again it is proven that war and Christianity are of opposite poles and have nothing at all in common. And yet, so outspoken an uproar against a more general statement of Christian philosophy seems to shock even sensibilities seen dulled as they are to the continued disregard of Christian principles.

WHEN LINCOLN DIED.

It was fifty years ago Thursday when Abraham Lincoln died—a half century ago—a half century that has been filled with exciting and thrilling events, but not one of which has eclipsed in horror or moment the event which occurred Nov. 15, 1865.

A half century is a long time—to think about, but a very short time in actuality—but its space can be fraught with great deeds or great events. The slaying of Lincoln was an event which had much to do with the conditions of the present day.

All St. Joseph on Thursday bore evidence that the great Lincoln was remembered. There were evidences on every side and the respect shown for his memory was of distinctive note. On all hands was evident the fact that though it was often claimed that Lincoln was not a great man, that it is conceded that he had met the great emergencies which arose in his time—the greatest that befell this nation—in a manner that so gained for him the confidence of the people.

Abraham Lincoln was a man of singularly abundant feeling. He had a heart full of all gentle and pure affections—a heart not prone to strong passion or tumultuous emotion, but ever glowing with a steady, warm, all-comprehensive sympathy. It was a large, equable, genial, tender heart, none the less delicately strung because its chords were deep laid. It was a heart that could not retain a single bitter or vindictive feeling. Public life has a tendency to chill the kindly and generous affections, and blight the sweet charities of life, but of President Lincoln it may be said that his heart was as little hardened as if he had lived and died in a farm house. No public power, no public care, no public applause could spoil him, he remained ever the same plain man of the people. It was this which peculiarly endeared him to the people, and makes the sorrow for him so tender as a personal feeling, apart from the sense of a national calamity.

VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BONDS.

Because every boy and girl is entitled to have a seat, and to attend school all day. The bond issue will provide the much needed room.

Nearly one thousand children in the district are unable to attend school more than one-half of each day because of the lack of school room.

School buildings should be so constructed and maintained as not to endanger the health or endanger the safety of children attending school. Several of our older school buildings, including the Central High school building, need to be remodeled and made fireproof, to make them safe and sanitary.

Nearly two thousand children in the district at this time are compelled to attend school in buildings and rooms which are not fit, when the health and general welfare of the child is considered.

The best advertisement for any city is adequate, up-to-date schools.

If this bond issue carries it will give employment to hundreds of laboring men.

This bond issue does not raise the school taxes. We vote at this election to keep the school taxes in force at the present rate. Every taxpayer should vote "yes" on the school tax levy.

Go to the polls Saturday, April 24th, and vote for the little ones now being deprived of proper school facilities. Vote for the upbuilding of your city—for your home.

Vote also for the bonds to enlarge the public library building, which is much needed and secure to the city a museum worth several times the cost of the improvement.

None of the necessary improvements contemplated by the board can be made unless this school bond issue carries.

REPUBLICANS NOW WILL "GO BACK."

The doctrine of "stand pat" is no longer used by the Republican leaders but in place comes the order to "go back." The great speakers of that party have in their recent speeches all declared that the only honorable to "go back" to the days of McKinley and get a presidential leader who represents the principles of that party twenty-five years ago. That they no intent to go back is shown wherever they are in power.

One of the most noteworthy of these cases is that of Wisconsin where they have recently returned to power. In that state a great university had grown up that was making a reputation for the state all over the civilized world. The first thing that the legislature did was to make an attack on the university in an effort to force it to abandon the progressive methods that has made it famous and "go back" to methods of a quarter of a century ago. The bill first introduced was to create a board of control composed of thirteen persons, three of whom would be business men and the only ones to receive a salary. That would put the university under control of "business"—a perfected Mark Hanna idea, but it created such a furor that it had to be modified. Of course it would have resulted in the resignation of Dr. Van Hise, the president of the university.

However, the campaign for the political and business control of the university has not been abandoned and the Republican forces of Wisconsin are marching backward at a quick step, and wherever they get control the same policy will be adopted. The command of the Democratic party is: "Forward March." The command of the Republican party is: "About face. To the rear. Double quick. March."

It is to be regretted that a large number of St. Joseph ministers feel compelled to acknowledge that they cannot measure up to the standard they should to hold the attention of their congregations, and are obliged to ask Billy Sunday to come here to stir up a religious awakening. It had been generally supposed that the clergy of this city was sufficient in power and capability for the wants of their congregations, but it now looks as though this was a mistake as far as a majority of them are concerned—those who are inviting Billy Sunday.

The Flying Squadron, which was here in relays this week, may do some good—and again they may not. There is not much gained it will be noticed where it is known that men talk for the money that is in it. Cut off the salaries of these squadronites and see how long their "intense interest" in prohibition will continue.

If old Theodore E. Burton of Ohio should happen to be the Republican nominee for president, as he wants to be, we can personally assure him that he will not get a single vote in this part of Missouri. Burton is the man who has always prevented the Missouri river from having help.

If the question who is to succeed Joe Andriano as deputy United States marshal, and George Toel, revenue collector here, is not soon settled, there will soon be no more change left to pay fares from here to Kansas City for those who want the places.

It is remarkable that some few men in their frantic desire to get their names in print, will acknowledge that W. R. Nelson, late of the Kansas City Star, was right and they did not know what they were talking about.

Just as an instance of the invigorating effects of our Missouri climate attention is called to the case of William L. Miller of Joplin who at 101 years is taking on his third wife. Great is Missouri.

The money to do the work of keeping the Missouri river from cutting through below the city will be raised. The work is in the hands of men who act—and don't work through the medium of noise.

Either keep the Jitneys off the streets or force them to show some responsibility and commercial standing. It will not pay your family to have you killed by the Jitneys now operating here.

Mexico down in Anarchy is in darkness and those who voted out $16,000 yearly in license do not seem to be opening their wallets with any startling degree of celerity.

The St. Louis Republican city committee certainly owes an explanation to the people for its withholding of the fraudulent practices of Fredericks until after the election.

If the city is assailed with many more damage suits the Republican administration will be forced to call for a bond issue to pay the interest charges.

There are over three hundred thousand people now living in Missouri who were present at Ford's theater and saw Lincoln shot—that is they say so.

The idiot crowd seem to be at big gambling. It might be well to get a little responsibility in the organization before there is too much scrapping.

When that soliciting committee calls the coming week and asks you for a subscription for the Missouri river work, just dig up.

Of course you will not forget that next Friday is Dollar Day. Come down among the retailers that day and get bargains.

Alaska is going to vote on territory-wide prohibition, and such an uproar of joy up there to keep the stuff wet and cool!

Navigation of the Missouri seems to have opened up. There were two big steamers at the Francis street dock Thursday.

England is having its fill of the war grafters. These leeches and thieves are always in evidence when a nation is in trouble.

The welfare board wants $11,000 for the current year. The needs of the organization should be carefully investigated.

We should hate to be in the Republican orator class at the next election and have the questions that will be fired at us.

Deputy Sheriff Tom Moore may be a good detective, but he is a mighty poor hand to contract with railroad tickets.

The San Diego exposition has made money from the start, and the managers have placed this fact on exhibition.

That 189,147 men lost by the British army since the war began may be of value do much good work raising crops.

Happy is the president, the governor or the mayor who has the high privilege of throwing the first ball.

We will give a prize to the first person who will tell us correctly what a "Hadley Republican" is.

Brownsville is as near as General Funston has come to where the bullets are flying thickest.

But a president of the United States cannot open a baseball season by pressing a button.

The cry may soon be "Can you buy a bale of cotton?" instead of "Buy a bale of cotton."

Why don't you shake that municipal plum tree, Mayor Marshall?—the fruit is ripe.

It is almost two weeks since Teddy has been heard from. Where is the big noise?

The ball score will now happily divert our attention from the war bulletin.

You can't follow the country's history without a score card now.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

Of Course—says Kansas.

Willard, of Kansas, winner. "Of course," says Kansas.—Kansas City Times.

But the Rooms Are Different.

Over yonder the masses are booming and over here business.—Odessa Times.

All Comes from Petrograd.

However, all the Austrian peace talk seems to come from Petrograd.—Kansas City Post.

Some Celebration to be.

St. Louis is to have an union day. There will be some scents in a celebration like that.—Paris Mercury.

Putting Many There for Good.

European nations are putting more men in the field. Many of them permanently.—Worth County Times.

Has Many Friends Left.

The twilight sleep may be all right but the nine-day sleeper also has its friends.—Platte County Landmark.

A Great Pull with the People.

The reason that a doctor gets along so well is that he has such a pull with the people.—Louisiana Press-Journal.

Which "Last" Is It?

Austria is reported from Petrograd to be making her "last stand." What does it mean, "last?"—Kansas City Post.

Will Need Him to Save.

J. P. Morgan is in London, so the papers say, "arranging finances." God save the Queen, and King too.—Albany Ledger.

Why Didn't He Keep Him?

Beveridge is on his way home from Germany. We regret the Kaiser could not induce him to remain longer.—Boonville Advertiser.

Was a Long Lane.

Watchful waiting wins, but five years is a long time to wait for a white hope to whip Jack Johnson.—Howell County Gazette.

Keep Some Enemy Ships Idle.

Anyhow, Commander Thierichens of the Kitel Friedrich kept several French and British warships idle for quite some time.—Kansas City Times.

They Need Farm Hands There.

Jack Johnson latest announcement is that he will become a farmer in France. They are going to need some good muscle on French farms.—Marceline Mirror.

The G.-D. at Its Old Howl.

The legislature has adjourned, but the St. Louis Globe-Democrat is still on the job predicting state deficit and bankruptcy. Just as it has for the past forty years.—Henry County Democrat.

Only Applies to Animals.

The agricultural department at Washington announces that the country has been relieved of the foot and mouth disease. This applies to quadrupeds only.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

Just the Price of the Standard.

A scientist reminds us that there are 10,000,000 microbes on a $1 bill. That is the price of the Milan Standard—being on four microbes.—Milan Standard.

What Will It Do with Teddy?

The Globe-Democrat says that Roosevelt has gone back to the Republican party. We rise to ask, what will the Republican party do with Mr. Roosevelt?—Milan Standard.

We Are Justified Then.

Of course we want to remain neutral, but when Petrograd sends out a story about "Thousand Marauding Kaiserys Assault Austrians" and hitched together, it's piling it on too thick.—Kansas City Times.

Those Geezers Wink Alike.

The Higginsville Jeffersonian says: "If you wink at Gerts, Gertie will wink at you." Higginsville Gertes differ from some Gertes. The kind we refer to, wink first.—Salisbury Democrat.

Will Afford Them Some Relief.

Omaha doctors have just made a new lower lip for a Broken Bow boy who had had the old one bitten off by a horse. This must afford some assurance to those old guard Republicans who have been talking about the resuscitation of the g. o. p.—St. Louis Times.

Where Were the Prohibitionists?

The Henry County Republican, which was a few months ago a Progressive-prohibition paper, has been taken charge of by Mr. Conrad, who held a mortgage on the plant. The lessons of the plant quit business owing four of their employes nearly three hundred dollars.—Marshall News.

No Joe Folk Noise Up Here.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal says, "There is a Joe Folk Senatorial boom putting out a few green sprouts up in Missouri." Have to go away from home to learn the news. There are no Folk sprouts up this way, as far as any one can notice.—Boonville Advertiser.

"It Should be the Case.

According to good authority the Willard-Johnson prize fight pictures are barred from being shown in the United States, which will be a keen disappointment to lots of sports, but a cause of thanksgiving to many other people.—Albany Ledger.

One of the Half Million "Eye Witnesses."

A lecture on "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln," was delivered at assembly period of the high school at 1:15 o'clock this afternoon by Dr. T. D. Bancroft, historian. Mr. Bancroft claims he witnessed the assassination and was acquainted with the life of the president while in the White House.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

Plattsburg Is Sprucing Up.

Plattsburg has made a move now to join the towns in "The Modern Class." One of these modern ideas has been the oiling of the streets. It was done last year on a small scale and was good while it lasted, but the second application of oil has been tardy. Citizens and taxpayers will welcome another cleaning and oiling of the streets.—Clinton County Democrat.

Possibly Excelsior Springs Deserves It.

Excelsior Springs is getting undesirable notoriety out of a statement that recently appeared in a Kansas City paper to the effect that this city was filling up with gamblers and confidence men and that special officers had been employed to protect the citizens and visitors from the crooks that are supposed to exist here in large numbers.—Excelsior Springs Standard.

Probably Are Sorry They Sold.

If it be true that Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman was recently charged $2.33 a bushel for corn at the South Omaha stock yards, as he has stated from Washington, it is probable that the stockyards authorities will gladly refund the amount of the overcharge and say no more about it.—St. Louis Times.

Tires of Kansas City Beggars.

Had you noticed how people, said to be representing Kansas City orphan homes, old people's rest, etc., have been in Platte City this week? These Kansas City people say they are proud of their charitable and benevolent institutions—then go around and "do" the country towns to get the money to run the institutions, or go out of the business.—Platte County Landmark.

Hadley's Standing is Bum.

Herbert Hadley, the man from Kansas who served one term as governor of Missouri, has announced his intention of running for United States senator on the stand-pat Republican ticket. If he runs the progressive Republicans will remember Mr. Hadley flirted with them and tried to make them believe he was a real progressive. Mr. Hadley's standing in the Republican party is not so good as it was when he ran for governor.—Memphis Democrat.

How Will You Explain, Standpatter?

They talk about free sugar ruining the beet industry in the west. By reading Geo. Jones letter from Julesburg, Colo., on this same it will be noted that the prices for beets are higher than ever before. That's like the Republican yarn that free wool would destroy the sheep industry, and now is bringing higher prices than under a high tariff. Same with wheat, rubber goodies, etc. Just how Republican high tariff advocates can explain away these facts is likely beyond fathomless, we are unable to understand.—Gallatin Democrat.