

BARRE DAILY TIMES

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1919.

Published Every Week-Day Afternoon by THE BARRE DAILY TIMES, INC., Frank E. Langley, Publisher

Entered at the Postoffice at Barre as Second-Class Mail Matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year by mail, \$4.00; Three months by mail, \$1.00; One month by mail, .40 cents; Single copy, .2 cents. All subscriptions cash in advance.

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June has been a fickle jade.

Not all the peace delegations could see themselves as others saw them even though they were assembled in the famous Hall of Mirrors.

It would be interesting to hear more of the real inside history of the resignation of Robert W. Simonds, as state commissioner of industries.

If Dr. Wilkins was innocent of the charge of murdering his wife, why didn't he wait to have it proven? His suicide in prison makes a very effectual estoppel.

The celebrations of the Fourth of July throughout the United States next Friday will take on a double significance now that the treaty of peace is signed.

So far as the early reports indicate, the German war lords are the only Germans who are greatly disturbed over the signing of the treaty by Germany; the German people themselves take the action with phlegmatic mental state. It remains to be seen, therefore, how much the German people have really come to their own in that supposed democracy.

The outbreak at Brest Sunday night in which American soldiers and marines clashed with French soldiers calls for thorough investigation, especially the report that an American officer, while drunk, tore down and trampled a French flag. If such were the fact, it constituted a deliberate insult to France, which should be followed by a governmental apology, as well as an apology by the offending American officer.

Every man in Washington and Orange counties who entered the service of the United States during the recent war should make particular efforts to participate in the home-coming reception to be held in Barre on Friday of this week, the Fourth of July. They should be clad in the uniform of the service in order that they may march in the parade and show the strength of the support accorded by these two counties, as well as to permit them to share in the good things which are to be provided for all service men on that day. The uniform will be the ticket of admission to all the features under the charge of the Barre committee, including the meals for the day. The men are wanted to assist in the dedication of the splendid victory arch erected in their honor. Let every man in the two counties turn out if possible for the day's celebration. Be sure to wear your uniforms.

THE LEVERAGE ON GERMANY.

There will be the usual chorus of protest against the action of the allies in continuing the blockade of Germany until the German national assembly has approved the peace treaty signed by the German delegation at Versailles. Such action will be considered by some as a terrible bearing-down on a defeated people; and so on. But those people, who are making the protest, have undoubtedly forgotten, or overlooked, the mental attitude displayed by the Germans ever since the war was inaugurated by their government; they have forgotten, or overlooked, the fact that Germany's word has been totally unreliable or shifty in the extreme and that nothing was sure until the allies had pinned it down. In the present case there will be no certainty that the peace signed by the German delegation will be ratified by the national assembly at Weimar; and after it has been approved by the national assembly there will be no guarantee that the terms of the treaty will be carried out by the government which happens to be in power in Germany. Therefore, the only way in which to make sure of the ratification of the treaty is to use the leverage which is at the disposal of the allies, a leverage which can be exerted without bloodshed. The blockade ought to be kept in force until the allies feel Germany intends to live up to her obligations to the allies, to the world and to civilization.

THE TREATY SHOULD BE RATIFIED PROMPTLY.

The treaty signed Saturday at Versailles bears some of the earmarks of human frailties and may be considered in considerable degree a faulty document; yet it represents the earnest work of a conference of prominent men in the leading nations of the allied side for a period of about six months. It contains evidence of some hating and some recession from the ideal viewpoint; it does not satisfy all the nations involved in every particular, for in the bringing together of all the loose ends strung out by the action of the war it was not possible to adjust all those loose ends to the entire satisfaction of each and every claimant. In that respect the treaty is not an instrument that will stand above criticism both now and in the years to come.

Nevertheless, it is a treaty which is perhaps the best that could be obtained under the conditions that existed after



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the signing of the armistice. It is said that any wrongs that have been done in the drawing up of the treaty can be righted when the passage of time will clearly indicate what will be the right. It is barely possible, too, that actions which seem now to have been due to errors in judgment will turn out to have been wise courses to pursue, while arrangements which now seem wise may turn out to have been mistakes. Granting that it is possible to rectify any blunders that may have been made, and even though it may be impossible to bring about such rectification, it is the imperative duty of the nations involved, we believe, to lose no time in ratifying the treaty and in building the foundation for the world reconstruction which has been held up for months after the actual cessation of warfare. The Senate of the United States ought to take the lead in granting its approval to the treaty, which was signed Saturday by the American delegation in France; the petty political bickerings ought to be stamped out as the senators go about the contemplation of the treaty in a statesmanlike manner.

Refusal to approve the treaty would very likely result in even worse confusion than attended the drawing up of the present completed document and would, perhaps, open the way for the committing of far more egregious blunders than are charged against the treaty as it now stands. And if the United States, through its Senate, should set the example by refusing to approve, the action would be calculated to throw the world into a terrible chaos and tend inevitably toward increasing strength and menace of the evil of bolshevism. Actual and formal peace accomplished will mean a new start toward the complete restoration of the mental balance of the world. Therefore, the world cannot afford to let slip any chance to bring about such a consummation. The United States should lead in this.

Fourth of July in Vermont.

When July Fourth was getting near a feller's days was filled with fear; The Sunday school would have a ride, They said, and then 'would be denied; A rumored mountain-climbing trip Was nothing but a lot of lip; But when the preacher, Mr. Grout, A-fore the sermon give it out: There'd be a picnic 'Pendence Day We boys felt better right away.

We knew 't would be in Walker's woods, Across the brook from Sukey Goodie's. She didn't mind, she used to say, How much they heel-marked Walker's hay;

But there was lots and lots to do To put the preparations through; The Grange settlers would have to go To give the choir a decent show; The organ, too, or Inez Spring, Our off-key alto, wouldn't sing.

And first, a scout would go and look To see if teams could ford the brook, And then a gang to mow the brakes; And out the brush and kill the snakes; The table squad took five or more, The tester force from two to four; Another crew to rig the swings; And fetch the drinking water things; And, last of all, a special band To build or buy a speakers' stand.

Meantime, the ladies met to see A-what the eating plan should be; Should families have a family lunch, Or should the allies feed the bunch; If pinkish lemonade was sold The "traffic," sure, must be controlled; And then the speakers—Col. Jay, Who came to town to play croquet, Should be asked, the rich old thing! Or should the choir jest sing and sing.

The ladies also made it plain The sugarhouse, in case of rain, Would be the only place to 'scape And ought to be a-put in shape; Now comes the picnic—hear the fife, And see the flags all full of life; But I'm as tired as I can be A-getting up this picnic, Gee! It's took so long I'll stop right here And tell the rest another year. —Daniel L. Cady.

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CURRENT COMMENT

How Can We Forget 'Em?

The Barre Times thinks that the "Sallies" and "Nancies" so frequently mentioned in the public prints must be a bit confusing to those not up in the slang of the day and rises to explain that "Sallies" is the popular name for the Salvation Army as brought out by the war, while the "Nancies" are the United States naval planes that started out from Rockaway beach for the Azores. Let us not forget the "Lizzies" that are starting out every day for somewhere, generally get there and are so hard to keep up with.—Springfield Reporter.

Don't Want This Precedent.

The Barre Times thinks the appointment of Frank D. Thompson of Barton as reporter of the supreme court means that ultimately he will be elevated to the bench. As Hon. Frank Plumley would say, this may be a "violent presumption."—Rutland Herald.

Do we see here a precedent in the making? The supreme court reportership has not in the past been considered a necessary step in the way to a judgeship, although Judge Moulton did serve in that capacity for a short time before his elevation to the bench. It isn't a good thing to have "avenues" of approach to offices, and especially to those in connection with our courts. Being court reporter should neither qualify nor disqualify a man for judicial selection. If judges are to be appointed, it should be by the governor. If they are to be elected it should be by the legislature. It would not be a good procedure, when you come to think about it, to have the judges appoint their successors which would be the virtual result, practically, if the court reporters were to be made a judge through precedent.—St. Albans Messenger.

Keep the Huns Out!

The American troops in Germany long ago recovered from their temporary halucination regarding the Germans, and now see them in their true light, as traitors to truth and honor, whether soldiers or groveling civilians. The perfidy of the foe has been displayed to the Americans over and over again in the insolent claim that Germany's army was unbeaten. This shameful lie has been told by Germans who at the very moment were fawning at the feet of their conquerors. Well, they are beaten now, by their own acknowledgment, whatever that may be worth. The defeat will be ground into them as the peace terms begin to operate. They rely upon the cupidity of the allies to bring about a quick resumption of commercial relations. Thousands of these deadly enemies actually plan to come to the United States immediately to escape the taxes that will be imposed in Germany to pay war indemnities. Will Congress leave the gates open to these enemies, who are more dangerous than anarchists? The Germans are coming here to make

money and escape the punishment for their crimes. Keep them out!—Washington Post.

Americans, Be Americans!

The mightiest force in the world is the United States. It is the only great power except Japan that is uninjured by the war. It towers far above Japan or any other empire. Its moral influence is more potent than war, its friendship is the sustenance of Europe, and its freedom from all entanglements enables it to exert more power at this juncture than all the other nations combined. If the world is to be restored, it will be by the aid of the United States. If the world goes down, it will be because the United States has blundered by leaping into the whirlpool instead of remaining on the bank and helping its drowning companions.

Americans! Be Americans, and nothing else! Do not admit into the councils of America any foreigner or combination or league of foreigners, under any pretext whatever! America now has her greatest work to do, and none but Americans can do it.—Washington Post.

The Volunteer Militia.

Within a few days the Vermont volunteer militia, organized for home purposes when the 1st Vermont infantry was incorporated in the federal forces for use against the German imperial government, will be disbanded. The volunteer militia has been composed in the main of business and professional men, with some younger blood not old enough to enter the regular combatant services, but this element was in the main small. The militiamen have done all that has been required of them, have been faithful in drill and other duty, and in a personal sense have been of little expense to the state, not even drawing drill pay. Would it not be a gracious thing for the state, upon the disbanding of the regiment, to give to every man the gun which he had assigned to him during the war. Of course the state could sell these guns and get something in return, but after all it would be a small sum, and to many of the militiamen there is a sentiment attached and the people of the state would be more than willing that they should receive this much in recognition of their services.—St. Albans Messenger.

Parole and Probation in Vermont.

Few people realize the revolution that has been effected in the treatment of criminals in Vermont penal institutions. For months before it was closed, the house of correction at Rutland had only about 50 people confined there and less than that number were transferred to the state prison at Windsor. A few

years ago the daily average of prisoners in the house of correction was between 150 and 200 and the institution was oftener overcrowded than otherwise. There was also a "full house" at Windsor. Some prisoners in recent years held for minor offenses have served their terms in the county jails, many of them working outside the jails upon honor. But the greatest change has been brought about by the system of parole and probation. Thus far the success of paroles and probation has been very gratifying. Very few comparatively have violated the terms of their liberty and many have developed traits of desirable citizenship. The state can feel a legitimate pride in its record of caring for its criminals.—Rutland Herald.

An Awful Fix!

A terrible discovery has been made. Six of the states have been violating the constitution without anybody knowing it. The constitution says, and has always said, that members of legislatures, as well as congressmen, "shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this constitution." Yet in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Texas, Vermont and Washington no such oath or affirmation is required. The implications of this omission are staggering. Were the legislatures of these six states competent to ratify the prohibition amendment? Expert anti-prohibition sentiment is said to be united in the negative. Were they competent to do anything? Have they ever been competent to do anything? Can the citizens of the six states collect the taxes they have paid all their lives, upon the ground that such taxes were levied by an illegal body? What of laws passed by the votes of United States senators who were elected by the legislatures of these six states? Anyone with a little imagination can see the country in an awful fix. "It is said in Washington that no less a legal luminary than Elihu Root may be asked for an opinion." And yet people go right on marrying and dying and saving daylight with the utmost nonchalance.—New York Evening Post.

No Enthusiast.

"Dawdler plays golf so well he ought to be a professional." "Yes, I once suggested it to him, but he says nothing would induce him to work so hard in the hot weather."—Boston Transcript.

Salvage.

Swords into ploughshares, tin derbies into dinner pails, Hun helmets into cuspidors—and now we read that millions of hand grenades are to be converted into home savings banks.—Boston Transcript.

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