

# The Cordova Daily Times

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H. G. STEEL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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CORDOVA, ALASKA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1917.

**A JOKER ON THE KAISER.**

All other things aside, if we would give the devil his dues we should thank the kaiser for the moral and material assistance he has unwittingly rendered in the formation of the great American merchant marine. Had it not been for the menace of his submarines, the probabilities are that we would still be dreaming of the mighty fleet of merchantmen that would some day carry the Stars and Stripes to every corner of the globe. As it now happens, however, this fleet is already under construction and the day is not far distant when America will assume her rightfully proud position on the sea. As we said before, we have the kaiser to thank for this most agreeable situation.

Also, we have him to thank for a very material contribution to our new merchant marine, in the shape of the interned liner Vaterland, which has been confiscated by the government, and is now being put in condition for active service under the American flag. It is planned by our experts to convert the giant liner into a transport ship for our troops, and it is said that the big boat is easily adaptable to such purposes. In fact, it is claimed by the engineers who are over-boarding the ship, although a seagoing vessel, that the ship, although a seagoing vessel, is primarily for a vice, was a vessel that we do not expect to believe that the kaiser intended some day to make use of the Vaterland as a troop ship.

The big ship was constructed under the direct supervision of the German military authorities and can carry a small army on board. It is estimated that she can transport 20,000 men a month to Europe, for she is one of the fastest liners afloat and can cross the Atlantic in less than a week. Not only does she afford ample stowage accommodations, but there is room on her great after deck for the manoeuvring of a whole regiment. She is also equipped to forestall submarine attacks. Giant platforms that will permit the mounting of rapid firing armament were originally installed in the ship. Then she has a system of water-tight compartments that make it next to impossible to sink her. The experts claim that the boat can be hit by even three or four torpedoes and still be kept afloat.

Thus it would seem that the kaiser and his associates have taken a great deal of trouble to help us solve the problem of ocean traffic during these troublesome times. The Vaterland was his especial favorite, and one can well imagine the wry face he will pull when he learns that the big ship is again ploughing the deep, but flying under the enemy's flag and bearing the crack soldiers of the world to join

in the showdown fight that will spell his doom. We Americans have a heavy score to settle with the Prussian autocrat, and it will make it all the easier to pay him back in part with his own corn. And, pardon the thought, it will give us considerable reassurance, when our boys set sail on the great boat, to know that the kaiser has taken such pains to protect them against all accident and attack while riding the waves. For this, at least, he is indeed entitled to our whole-hearted thanks.

**A THANKLESS JOB, AT THAT.**

Poor Mayor Mitchell of New York! In his burning desire to succeed himself he finds his candidacy in a pretty predicament. A Democrat himself, Tammany Hall has named a candidate of its own and is openly fighting the mayor. Repudiated by his own party, the mayor sought the Republican nomination, and, notwithstanding the fact that Colonel R. M. other prominent Charles E. Hughes openly urged his name, he lost this nomination to a candidate unknown Republican. Now Mayor Mitchell is determined to make an independent campaign for re-election, and while he has the support of the best element and the biggest men in the metropolis, the chances are that he will be decisively defeated.

The chief trouble with Mitchell seems to be that he is a poor politician. As a mayor, New York has not had his equal in years. He has been clean and competent in office and has shown a firm grasp of the affairs of the city. Moreover, he has risen above partisanship, and this appears to be the cause of his undoing. Mitchell, although eminently fair with the plain people, has forgotten to cultivate their friendship. On the other hand, he has flirted continuously with the blue bloods and the wealthy class until the common people think that he is a genuine highbrow himself. Hence they are all against him, and that just about spells his defeat, for the poor can outvote the rich every day in the year.

Mayor Mitchell seems to have made the same mistake that ex-Governor Ferguson of Texas made, only in the opposite direction. Ferguson made a hobby of identifying himself with the hoi polloi in such a manner as to invite the solid opposition of the intellectual and aristocratic classes. When fully aroused, they finished Ferguson in a hurry. Mitchell, on the other hand, has consorted so openly with the elite that the ordinary people have lost faith in him. And he can't win without their support. It will be misfortune for Mitchell and the metropolis that he is unable to weather the storm.

## GERMANY USING PAPER IN ALL ITS GOODS

(By Associated Press)  
 LONDON, Oct. 31.—"Paper is being used for commercial purposes everywhere now," says a report of the Board of Trade. "Even tissue paper can be used in its manufacture. With regard to textiles, paper is being used for making sacks for commercial use in the place of Burlap, and these have been found equal to the former sacks in every way."

Paper shoes are being manufactured in a small way in England, the paper being used for the uppers. The material is plaited paper closely woven, somewhat similar to that used in the manufacture of paper hats. Paper fibre is also used in making a cheap grade of imitation felt hats for men.

Discussing the measures taken in the last year by Germany to deal with the growing shortage of clothing, the Board of Trade Gazette says: "Much of the clothing now worn all through the German Empire, including military uniforms, is made from materials diluted in varying degrees with substitutes such as paper and cellulose, the warmth and wearing qualities of which are doubtful, compared with the materials of wool and cotton."

**LOOKING FOR UNWRITTEN LAW IN MILITARY CODE.**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Lawyer sharps in the war department are looking for an "unwritten law" in the strict military code. Here is their problem. In Texas an ex-soldier was arrested on his way home from camp wearing the uniform. The law prohibiting this is strictly enforced. The offender showed he had no other clothes. He would either be arrested, he said, for wearing the uniform or for the lack of a uniform or other clothing. The sheriff went beyond the law and permitted the uniform, but he is asking the war department to legalize his action, as cases of this kind are becoming more and more frequent.

The fact that the newspapers gave more space and attention to the accounts of the battles at Chicago and New York between the American League and National League champion ball teams than to those "somewhere in France," is insufficient foundation for a belief that a postponement of the war was ordered until after the championship was settled.

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