

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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HELP YOUR COUNTRY

Chairman E. A. King of this city is now hard at work with his assistants getting all in readiness for the week of April 21—a week that means much to you—to every citizen of St. Joseph and of Buchanan county—the week wherein the Victory Loan drive will start.

Now we want to talk about this—how it means much to you—much to all of us—much to the world. We want to ask you some questions. Do you know what it is, why it is, all that it signifies, what is required to put it across?

It is a loan of YOUR MONEY, at good interest and on gilt-edged security, repayable in just a few years, to enable the government, YOUR government—to do what?

To pay for having won the war, by a herculean effort and an amazing burst of speed, a year ahead of time! Without that tremendous effort, that dizzying, seemingly impossible haste, not only would the winning of the war have been delayed at least a year—it might never have been won!

The heroic armies of gallant France, bleeding at every pore, staggering with exhaustion, were being pushed back, again and again; they were on the point of being broken, on the point of shameful defeat, when the United States showed up with two millions of trained troops, superbly armed and equipped, months in advance of what had seemed possible. Rescue came at the critical moment, the tide was turned, the war was won within a few weeks, victory was snatched from the jaws of defeat.

Tens of thousands of lives, you hundreds of thousands, were saved by that all but fabulous feat. It is hardly too much to say that liberty for all the world was saved by it.

Without the least question or cavil the price at which this was accomplished is admitted to be a terrible one—a staggering price, but we should not look at every one of us think the great Father above that the government at Washington had the wisdom to realize that its price was too great to pay for early victory, for assured victory, and the savings to act on it.

It was the only way to win. It was the only way to save the noblest cause in which men were ever sent to their death.

Ships, arms, munitions, provisions, clothing, railroads and docks in France, all had to be provided in quantities and in volumes that were unprecedented, and it had to be done in a way that took an account of cost if only the work could be rushed to completion a few months, a few weeks, earlier.

And there are men now going about who probe about extravagance and waste in that great undertaking. Of course there was waste—but that was caused by haste saved the day, and the man who now goes about when Chairman King wants to raise our part of the loans that we must raise to pay for that peaceful achievement, and means and means and means and means because of all it cost, because the cost was "too high," is a mighty poor citizen and a mighty poor patriot. His folly is as great as if he proposed to blow up and demolish the sun because of the spots that are on it.

If money had not been poured out like water in the dark days of crisis that threatened to become days of despair and defeat, we would be pouring out blood like water today!

If money had not been poured out like water then, the boys who are coming home sound and well on every available transport now, would be leaving their bodies to fertilize the fields of France—and of a France overrun and held by the German invaders.

And now will you say that the cost was too high—the price too great? Will you say that we should have held back and delayed our dollars and weigh and estimate and save when speed was the one essential—and lose everything for which every dollar that went before had been spent, everything that every one of the soldier dead had perished to save?

Shame, a black and blighting shame, on the man that says it! Shame, to the end of his days, on that man who now conspires to make it difficult to raise the money to pay for it all; who pulls back in the harness, who lies down in the road, who

squalls, and finds fault, and criticizes, who closes his own purse and invites other men to close theirs! And a week from next Monday—on April 21—is the day when we need all take hold—when each and every one of us must be at our posts—when every one of us who is a true patriot will be on hand and ready for the work—for the three weeks to follow are the ones in which criticism and complaint must be curtailed and postponed—for there is yet many soldiers who must yet be brought home, and there are many other huge expenditures to be paid for. The necessities of the government demand the loyal co-operation of every worthy citizen, regardless of his party, or race. There will be time enough to quarrel afterward, time enough to quarrel with the administration for all that it has done, time enough to play politics.

Stand by the government! Stand by the Victory Loan! Save the credit of the one by putting the other across—and then, when it is done, renounce your fault-finding if you must.

WILSON OR LENINE—WHICH?

When the great war had entered into its last phase, it became a conflict between the political principles represented by President Wilson and the political principles represented by the Kaiser—and President Wilson principles triumphed.

The issue of peace at the present time has become the question as to which set of principles—Wilson's or Lenine's—will control. Will the president's principles again triumph, or will the victory, if it is won, come too late to save Europe from the unrestrained forces of bolshevism?

The Wilson principles were eagerly accepted by the great majority of European peoples, not because they were defined by the president of the United States, but because they gave expression to the aims and objects of an embattled democracy. The issues of the war, as he expressed them, were democratic issues; the terms of peace were democratic terms. Overwise and oversophisticated persons who could not realize that the old regime had been shot to shreds often pretended that they could not understand the meaning of the president's principles, but the ordinary man had no such difficulty. They were plain enough to him.

When the Paris peace conference met, there was overwhelming popular support for the Wilson terms. While the conference has been in session this support has been weakening, not because the terms were too democratic, but because of the growing belief of radicals that there was little disposition on the part of the government represented to carry these terms into effect. While diplomacy has been playing the ancient game of imperialism and reaction, bolshevism has swept steadily forward. It is stronger in Europe than ever before, and it gains in power with every new measure of obstruction in the Paris conference.

The vital question now is not whether Europe is to be autocratic or democratic but whether it is to be democratic or bolshevist. Bolshevism, after all, is merely a new form of autocracy in which the proletariat is substituted for the aristocracy that has gone under. It is class government in a different form and in a still more insidious form.

It is already certain from the march of events that there will be a league of nations. If it is not Wilson's league it will be Lenine's league. Lenine's league is making rapid progress. It already includes Russia and Hungary. It is making enormous gains in Bohemia, in Rumania and in Poland. It has been temporarily defeated in Germany by the use of machine guns, but the issue is not settled. A peace in Paris that disappoints the great mass of European people by giving them no hope of a world in which adequate safeguards have been taken to prevent the tragedy of another war will form the basis of a bolshevist propaganda beyond the wildest dreams of Lenine and Trotsky three months ago.

Every attempt to discredit the president plays into their hands. Every attempt to disregard the fourteen propositions which were accepted by all the belligerents as the basis of peace is so much new grist to the bolshevist mill. These are the obvious and unmistakable facts of the Paris deadlock. While diplomacy halts and haggles, bolshevism acts.

THEY ARE ALL COMING BACK

When President Wilson first brought in the constitution of the League of Nations a big band of Republican senators grabbed their tomahawks, raised the war cry and rushed wildly off the reservation. Today these self-same gop braves are peering wistfully through the sage brush and working themselves unostentatiously back to the old wigwam. So much was Senator Borah impressed by Elihu Root's letter to Chairman Willie Hays, that he now

says that "If Mr. Root's suggestions were adopted I might be tempted to vote for the league." The Root amendments do not differ much in principle from the Taft amendments; yet Senator Borah recently accused Mr. Taft of trying to make the United States a vassal of Great Britain and of siding "George V. to recover what George III. had lost." Before the constitution was ever submitted for public discussion, Senator Borah announced that he would not vote for a league of nations if "the Saviour of mankind himself" supported it. Now he is willing to vote for it if the Root amendments are adopted, and it is reported in a dispatch from Paris that all the Root amendments are acceptable to the American delegates.

What has happened to change the senatorial mind is very apparent. The gentlemen who set forth bravely to run for president by beating Mr. Wilson on the issue of the league of nations discovered that the votes were on the other side. Being practical and experienced politicians with no fondness for minorities, they began to devise means of getting back on the other side and are prepared to find a bridge in any alteration, however slight, that may be made in the provisions of the original covenant.

So far as the republican senators are concerned, the attempt to make a partisan issue of the league has failed completely. The country would not have it. The republican rank and file would not have it. It soon became evident that the league had as many republican supporters as democratic supporters and that the republican advocates of it could not be read out of the party. If they were, there would be no party left.

No doubt our republican friends will take the credit for whatever changes are made in the draft of the covenant by the peace conference, and we shall begrudge them none of the satisfaction that they can obtain from their claims. They might have had a much stronger case if the senators who signed the Lodge resolution had presented a definite set of amendments and stood by them, instead of raising to make suggestions. But where the senators failed, our eminent republicans took advantage of their opportunity. The really constructive work of criticism was done not by republicans in office but by republicans in private life. It is they who have been the real leaders of their party and it is they who have partially saved it from political and moral bankruptcy.

WHAT OUR FARMERS NEED

This part of Missouri is strictly an agricultural and stock raising region, and our prosperity depends almost entirely on our farmers. If the Buchanan county farmer prospers we prosper. If the Andrew county farmer prospers we prosper—and so on—and it naturally follows that the farmer is the one who must be helped and his community made to prosper. There are hundreds of thousands of farmers who can tell what should be done in their particular community and it is our duty to listen to them. Labor is generally represented at every session of every legislative body in America. Labor ought to be the first to stand shoulder to shoulder with agriculture.

There must be better rural schools, and they must prepare boys and girls for farm life instead of holding up to their youthful imagination the soldier and the lawyer and the politician as the only great men. There must be better supervision through governmental agency of the packing and shipping and storage of what we eat.

There must be schools to teach men how to grade their wheat and their corn, and laws to make it a crime to order a man's produce and then not pay for it. There must be state agencies to provide warehouse facilities where a man can store his produce and borrow money on the receipt given by the manager of the warehouse. It is utterly insane for billions of dollars' worth of agricultural products to be dumped on the market each year within a few weeks—so that the price is forced down, not to rise to normal again until the farmer has parted with it.

That happens every year in this country and has been happening since farming began. The farmers call it manipulation of the market, but it is not. They ought to hold that produce, but they have no place to hold it. None of this is original. Farmers have been pleading for help along these lines for decades, but all they ever got is free seeds from congress and experiments to increase production.

WHAT REFORMERS SHOULD SEE

Those who would reform all of the ills of the world need a little more balance. In other words there is a crying need of a balanced method in reform. We have developed a one-sided spirit about the business that refuses to see both sides of a question, that denies the possibility of

mixture of good with evil, and that is convincing itself that the only way to get rid of an undesirable thing is to destroy the whole premises in which it is found.

Our reformers go at the evils they detect with blinders on; they will not even look at the prospect about them, bent only on blinding the serpent. But it is characteristic of the serpents in our social organization that they do not run away. It would help a reformer to stop in his chasing of evil long enough to get a sense of the great amount of good there is all about him. It would give him a sense of proportion he totally lacks at times now. According to Charles Lamb it took the Chinese inventors of roast pig some time to discover that pigs could be roasted without burning down the house. It seems that it is taking us a long time to see that an evil can be banished from its in-trenchment without blowing up the whole district.

If we could throw off the blinders that keeps us from a free sight of the whole problem; if we could settle on what is to go and how to remove it with the least disturbance to the good in which it is imbedded, or perhaps on which it lightly rests, we should work much more easily, economically, and rapidly at the business of reforming.

THE OLD FASHIONED WOMAN

In Kansas City the other day there was given a costume party and the unquestioned belle of the occasion was dressed as an old fashioned girl—a real GIRL. There were all gradations of the new girl represented from a Palm Beach maiden in an ultra bathing suit, to the munition factory girl in overalls.

Does this not indicate that we have reached the extremes of folly in dress, and is there to be a reversion of type? Is a woman again to be a woman? Clothed as reason and good taste advise, is she to take the place of the caricatures so prevalent today? Women are said to adorn themselves mainly for two reasons: One to be in the fashion, the other to please men—or perhaps the order should be reversed. But are they pleasing the men in their present guise?

That all this foolishness in dress is having its effect upon the attitude of men toward women is apparent at every turn. It is shown in the lessening of the chivalrous attention, that has always been accorded by men to women they admire and respect. There is not that ready response to the feminine appeal as of yore. The little niceties of conduct are not strictly observed. Dress has not been responsible for all this, but it has contributed largely.

Another factor has been the demand of women for equal rights with men in privileges as well as in work and wages. There is an old song whose refrain runs—

Would the little woman be half as great,

If she were six feet tall?

The old-fashioned woman wielded a great influence. She ruled her family, influenced her manfolk in the affairs of the times, and was as great a factor in the world's progress as her sister of today, who fights for her alleged rights, and wears freakish apparel.

A THOUSAND-TO-ONE SHOT

There are thousands of Liberty bond holders in St. Joseph and all over the Platte Purchase—and for that matter all over America—who are now being besieged by letter, by circular, by word-of-mouth of smooth parties who are offering to relieve them of their bonds—or cash—by exchanging for these bonds prettily engraved certificates of stock of some oil or other speculative project. Are you thinking of accepting the offer? If you are, keep on thinking—and then don't do it.

For if you do the odds are too strong against you—too heavy—your chances of winning altogether too remote. Just what the odds are against one who plays the oil game has not been calculated. The best guess of people who know is that odds against the player are at least a thousand to one. For the one chance of winning he incurs at least 999 of losing; for every winner there will be 999 losers, and the pity of it is that the winners will be those who could afford to lose, and the losers, those who could not.

If you want to trade the sure thing of Liberty Bonds for one chance in a thousand of making a profit—or even getting your money back—go ahead. It's your funeral.

The question as to whether deputy highway engineer Robt. L. George should be retained which is now in controversy between the county court and the highway engineer, leaving the political part of it entirely out, settles itself through the action of the taxpayers Monday. At that time signatures of nearly two thousand men—those who live on the roads under supervision of George—and who

are better qualified to speak in that matter than any one else—stated that his services were satisfactory and they desired his retention. In the face of this signed proof Judges Brendel and Sampson have no recourse, for the voice of the people interested has spoken—and if they continue their efforts, despite this forceful reminder, they themselves will be alone to blame if the public can see nothing but "politics" in their move.

Possibly just as a pointer to the advocates of the acquisition of public utilities in St. Joseph, it might be stated that on Tuesday the voters of Detroit, Michigan, passed on the question of acquiring the street railways of that place and defeated the measure by an overwhelming majority.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Mayes amendment which will permit of market hunting does not pass, as it is but a license to the game hogs to destroy the little wild life that yet remains. All true sportsmen are against the passage of the measure—the game hogs for it.

When that overseas airplane service which is to transport us to Europe in twenty hours goes into effect, it will be no trouble for the average St. Joseph man to go across and see the battle scars of that old fighting ground—provided he has the price—which will be some.

Secretary Stubbs must have felt just a trifle funny after he journeyed to Kansas City Thursday to secure the Woodrow Wilson Way only to find out when he reached there that three Andrew county good fellows had secured the road for this city over two weeks before.

The wheat crop of the present year is forecast as the largest in a decade by the bureau of agriculture, and just here let us remind you, gentle reader, that this part of Missouri is going to furnish a big part of that coming crop—and get the dough for that wheat, too.

While some of the "experts" are trying to convince the people by figures that the cost of food products is not unnecessarily high—he will make a wretched failure when he tackles the average housewife on her return from a marketing tour.

After July 1st if war time prohibition stands, there will no doubt be a great exodus of the thirsty ones from this city who will join the Iowa boys in their hunt for that St. Joseph boot-lounger's cache, mention of which is made in another column.

Young Theodore Roosevelt is evidently desirous of taking the place in politics left vacant by his father—but his desire will be about as far as it will get, or he will go. There was and never will be but one real Roosevelt—and he is dead.

Things are coming to a pretty serious pass when the Missouri editor must go out and back up his editorial opinion by sticking a knife into various parts of a dissenting judge's anatomy, as is the case of Editor Lyon of Richmond.

Of course Sheriff Ed. Isaacson does not feel so badly over that cut in salary in the sheriff's office inasmuch as it does not affect his term of office—but there will be plenty of patriots reaching out for it at \$3,600 next time.

Looks a trifle curious that three good Andrew county road boosters like Cross, Boyer and Montgomery should secure a national highway for St. Joseph before the auto club of this city found it out—but they did.

It is difficult to conceive that two thousand Buchanan county taxpayers are so short-sighted that they would petition the county court to allow them to have "an impractical man" dissipate their tax money for them.

No wonder your bones did not ache this week, despite the damp weather—for there were over two hundred extra bone doctors in St. Joseph to take your case in hand—the osteopaths holding a convention here.

That heckler at the auditorium who heckled—and then took it back—probably realized the fact that he was on a high place (the second balcony) to begin a strategic and successful retreat.

If the equalization boards keep on raising the valuations here the people of St. Joseph will soon find out that Sherman was right when he said that war—

If the city is already hard up because but one-half of the liquor license can be collected on account of prohibition July 1st, what is going to be the situation after all of it is out off? Now that we are assured that the famous 15th infantry is to come to St. Joseph, let us make it the hottest

day those boys ever experienced—the Argonne not excepted.

St. Joseph's shop windows never looked prettier than they do now—and never before since the war began were the prices more reasonable. Come to St. Joseph to trade.

Chairman King wants your help for three weeks after April 21—but you can get off his staff much sooner if you will work harder to put the Victory Loan over quicker.

When the soldier boys come marching into St. Joseph, this city will have on its best bib and tucker and there will be nothing too good for the boys in khaki.

Editor Charles D. Morris has returned from the front—and all St. Joseph is glad that he is here again and that he returned sound in health.

Judge McClanahan and highway engineer Myers are backed up in their stand in the George case by two thousand duly attested signatures.

The Reed and Borah meeting came—and again it is gone—and the people of this vicinity heard much oratory—and the matter ends there.

And incidentally it will be a long time before any one will go up against a proposition such as the new recall measure sets forth.

Our neighboring city of Omaha seems to have developed into as much of a storm center as the Buchanan county court room.

Those little April showers that bring May flowers are right here in this good old Platte Purchase.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

And Will Still Go Merrily Forward Everybody says profiteering must go, and so it goes on in the same old way.—Boonville Advertiser.

We Don't Know If a man knows what he knows he must know it, but the question is, does he?—Parnell Sentinel.

Not If An Editor Saug Singing is an art understood by few, but practised by many. We doubt if a disinterested jury could be found to try the subject.—Worth County Times.

Chicago Served Due Notice Notwithstanding the abundance of water in Lake Michigan, Chicago voters serve due notice that they still want their drinks mixed.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

Would Make Little Difference The government has placed a tax on the alarm clock. Here's hoping the alarm clock will not go off and strike, however, because of it.—Kansas City Times.

Better Watch Out, Jim! There is something at once peculiar, significant and portentous in the way the Kansas City Star and James A. Reed are agreeing so perfectly. Watch out Jim.—Platte County Landmark.

All the World Backs Him President Wilson demands that the peace envoys get results. He will have not only the universal support of the people of this country but the heart of the world back of him in that demand.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

Holds Good Both Ways "Drop that slouch," says a woman doctor to the modern girl—meaning manner in which she walks, and not referring to her "steady." Good advice, and might be taken both ways with profit.—Mayville Pilot.

It Is Hard to Tell There is said to be a keen demand for census jobs in Washington. Goodness, are there still some deserving Democrats who have not received jobs, or are these repeaters?—Kansas City Times.

And They May Be Right There are still a lot of moss-backs in the Missouri legislature who refuse to let the people vote on the question of a constitutional convention. The post Civil War constitution still suits them.—Tarkio Constitution.

Is "Reasonably Busy" Now President Wilson has been compelled to decline an invitation to visit Dublin while in Europe. He has certainly given a good excuse, since he impresses us as being a reasonably busy man just now.—Platte County Landmark.

And She Was Justified A lady nearly 80 years of age in crowding Main street one day last week stepped in one of the numerous holes in the street and fell. Telling another lady friend about the accident she said very expressively, although

a little indelicate, "Platte City has the damndest streets on earth."—Platte County Landmark.

When the Game Warden Starts True it is that this is the month of April; but it will be unusually late in the month when the game warden starts upon his annual rounds for the inspection of birds upon Easter bonnets.—Linneus Bulletin.

Who Could Do Better? Republican newspapers are howling loud and long because one man has "writ" the league of nations. There isn't a man these Republicans can trot out who could have done a better job than Woodrow.—Howell County Gazette.

And These People Still Live It has been estimated that 17,500,000 deaths were caused by the world war, yet there are some people in this country that would have you believe that it is not worth while to try to make future wars impossible.—Dade County Advocate.

Refuse to Protect Quail The Missouri state senate has refused to pass a law protecting quail. Some way or other the quails in Missouri never have had as much political influence as the rabbits. And when it comes to goats, oh, boy! the statute books are running over with protection.—Kansas City Times.

That Editor No Doubt Tried Reverting to the New York writer who says there are 100,000 ways of beating prohibition, there is really but one of them worth trying, and it won't work very long. The other 99,999 are imitations. The one, of course, is that of letting the police in on the pickings.—Kansas City Times.

"Sacrificial" at 30 Cents Per Pound J. O. Thompson, president of the Alabama Farmers' Protective League, has wired a challenge to Governor Allen of Kansas for a series of three debates on the question, "Resolved, That the cotton growers of the South have rendered a more sacrificial service to the country during the war than the wheat growers of the West." With cotton above 30 cents a pound a good share of the time, is "sacrificial" just the word Mr. Thompson wanted.—Kansas City Times.

Japs as Arrogant as Germans Japan is demanding that the Peace Conference abolish racial discrimination and the proposed international labor agreement, which it is declared is not adapted to the constitution of Japan, and makes other and equally important demands. It looks as though the Japs were as arrogant as the Germans, especially when they broadly intimate that they will refuse to sign the treaty if their demands are not met. It is a bit disquieting to think of what effect it would have on this country if we are to become an equal partner with her.—Glasgow Missourian.

Soldiers Want to Pick Jobs It seems that many of the returning soldiers do not want the jobs they gave up to go into the army. Especially is this true as to farmers. After their year or more of excitement, farm life appears entirely too tame for them. Most of them want positions in the big cities where the dodging of automobiles will remind them of the activities and dangers of war. Therefore the well-laid plans to give every soldier a farm are not proving as successful as anticipated. This is unfortunate as the cities are already overcrowded and to be fed the farms must be worked to the limit which cannot be done unless many more are induced to take up farming either as owners or workers thereon. With the improved machinery farming is a much more attractive business than in past years and undoubtedly more profitable than ever before.—Moberly Democrat.

Eating Out of the Sante Hand With the nomination and election of John W. Everman to a public office we believe all the living leaders of the famous snap conventions of the standpatters, held in this county in 1912, have been vindicated by being honored with official positions. It will be remembered how their leadership at that time was denounced and even Gov. Hadley came here from Jefferson City to assist in reading them from the party for their efforts, as many said at that time, "to steal away the rights of the people." But time has brought a change over the spirit of things and we have seen the fellows who were the loudest in denouncing those snap conventions and the leaders who participated in them, doing valiant service to help elect those same leaders to positions of public honor, while those republicans who were conspicuous as "Progressives" have been meekly eating from the hands that smote them and turned down when seeking official recognition. That's the way the republican leaders have of chastising the obstreperous ones in their party.—Gallatin Democrat.