

THE EVENING MISSOURIAN

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WAR PROPAGANDA

To obtain the approbation of every newspaper, political organization or commercial enterprise on a matter of such importance as the conduct of a war would be phenomenal. It is not at present the chief desiderata, but the spirit of the nation towards peace is of paramount significance.

War propaganda of a most despicable character has been furthered by many newspapers and magazines as well as political and educational leaders throughout the country. These organs of opinion and directors of thought endorsed readily the President's declaration of a state of war between Germany and the United States and the entry of this nation into the conflict. Now they are criticizing the government because the diplomatic negotiations are not carried on in public and because Wilson is fostering the theory of peace without victory through the promotion of international understanding.

All such propagandists understand in human nature or see in the destiny of the world is the force of reeking tube and iron shard. Behind these elements they do not perceive or comprehend the power of a mightier conception of lasting peace. A defeated and crushed Germany is their sole desire and ambition, they are vehement in their charges of disloyalty of others and disdainful in their attitude toward those entertaining hopes of peace.

They are detrimental and dangerous factors in a democracy. Especially is this true of America and at this critical time when the world is aflame with struggle and strife. Indirectly aiding the enemy by presenting an ill-omened attitude of the American spirit in the war, these propagandists are also adding to the perplexities and difficulties of a high-minded, noble and courageous leader. President Wilson's plans are not wholly set forth, but the spirit of American fairness and receptiveness for any proposals from the German people for the adjudication of differences are clearly indicated by him and deserve the support of every leader in a democracy such as that of the United States.

War propaganda during a just and lasting peace is in accord with American principles, regardless of the sacrifice necessary to obtain it, but as an end in itself the crushing of Germany is not compatible with President Wilson's high conception of peace and should not be fostered or encouraged by an enlightened and fair-minded people.

"If by eating meat I deprive a soldier of his share or bring hunger to the suffering people of Europe, I never want to eat meat again," said a local pastor in the food his congregation to sign the food pledge. That's the attitude of every patriotic citizen and since it is not necessary to do entirely without meat, let's sign the pledge and then go further and "put the lid on tight" for one meatless and one wheatless day each week.

The Y. M. C. A. is the one institution which makes the soldier overseas and in the training camps remember the teachings which he learned at home and it does it in such a way as not to be obnoxious to him. If you would see your son or your neighbor's son return as clean and wholesome thinking as he left, help out in the Y. M. C. A. war work campaign.

By deducting 2,200,000 pounds of meat and 80,000,000 bushels of wheat from its menu each twelve months, the United States will help win the war and also improve the health of its citizens. Perhaps that has something to do with the high cost of living.

Well, supposing you didn't have any meat one day, your brother in the trench didn't have any for several days and when it did come it was a chunk of bacon.

The Hoover Food Pledge is not something to be signed this week and forgotten about next week. It applies as long as the United States and the Allies are in the war.

Don't sign the food conservation pledge, just to help the solicitors along.

We can scarcely recognize our foreign relations these days.

AN INTERNATIONAL FREE PRESS

The Public (New York), "An International Journal of Fundamental Democracy," publishes in its current issue the following article by Dean Walter Williams of the School of Journalism:

The permanency and efficiency of a League of Peace depends in final analysis upon the body of public opinion which gives it support. The most elaborate and nicely adjusted international machinery breaks down sooner or later, except it has for motive power an informed and sympathetic public sentiment. A League of Honor is impossible of continuance save it is based upon common knowledge as well as common ideas. Neither individuals nor nations will walk long a path in amity together except they agree—and agreement has understanding for prerequisite.

Peace is more nearly safe in a democratic than in an autocratic world. Democracy is less liable than autocracy—or bureaucracy—to be militaristic. Fundamental in a democracy is freedom of speech, written and spoken. There can be no genuine and continued democracy save with freedom of the press. It still remains true as when uttered by Macaulay that there are but two kinds of government in the world, government by public opinion and government by the sword. Because the people hate war and love peace, wars will be increasingly infrequent when the voice of the people, organized public opinion, be comes in actuality the controlling factor in the destinies of all nations. Through a free press is, in modern times, the chief, though of course not the only, method of expression of public opinion.

In one sense this hideous war was made by the world's press. If the journalism of Europe had been for a century free to publish the news uncolored by government influence or dictation, if it had been free to discuss in public the machinations of secret diplomacy, this frightful strife would not have come. Certainly national antagonisms were increased and racial hatreds embittered by the international news served out from official or semi-official sources, by the Wolff Agency in Germany, Reuter's in England, the Havas in France, the Correspondenz Wilhelm in Austria, the Stefanie in Italy, the Ministry of the Telegraph—frankly official—in Russia, the Koksai in Japan and others in other lands. The international news thus circulated was seldom the actual truth—it was what the government wished the people of their own nations and the governments and people of other nations to think was the truth. Many others than Bismark manipulated the editorials and the news dispatches. Nor has the tribe disappeared from earth. War took place in the open because—thanks to an enslaved and complacent press—the preparations therefor were carried on in secret. Censorship was an accessory before the colossal crime of war even if it was not a principal in bringing it about.

To remove the constant recurring danger of strife between nations there is needed a national and international free press. Suspicion and jealousy and national antagonism are largely founded upon ignorance. It is what we do not know in our neighbor nation that we fear. It is what he does not understand regarding us that causes distrust and dislike. If the people of the nation knew the hopes, aspirations, life interests of other nations were free to learn would nevertions, were free to learn from a free press, many present causes of strife would never exist. The friendship between Canada and the United States, a friendship that made unnecessary forts or armed guards upon boundary lines, has resulted in large measure from an exchange of the people's thoughts, knowledge by each nation of the public opinion which determined the policies of the other nation. This has been possible because of a press circulating free on

both sides of the border. Controlled or subsidized news-agencies used to misinform, or inflame or irritate by the government of one country could have provoked the other country as to bring on war. What is true of the relations between Canada and the United States is equally true, though in different and varying degree, of the relations between all other nations.

When terms of peace are written it will not make so much difference what boundary lines are temporarily marked upon the world's map if the people within those boundary lines are permitted to express themselves freely and to talk over them at will and without fear of restraint. Division fences are most dangerous when they are elevated into impregnable and unscalable walls. Agreement upon freedom of the seas is desirable that the world's commerce of material freight may be carried by merchant navies without hindrance, but agreement upon freedom of the press is necessary that the world's commerce of opinion may be carried far and wide to all lands.

An international free press would mean real disarmament.

Forshey On Globe-Democrat.
C. Guy Forshey, 1917 graduate of the School of Journalism of the University, is now on the copy desk of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Y. M. C. A. POPULAR AT FUNSTON

Men at Army Camp Gather There for Entertainment.

"The Y. M. C. A. is the greatest single factor for good in the army camps today," said Dr. Guy L. Noyes, dean of the School of Medicine, who returned Tuesday from Camp Funston. "I have never seen anything to compare with it in comprehensive care of the men socially. They simply crowd one another to get to the Y. M. C. A. Building, where amusement is provided for them.

The Y. M. C. A. buildings are painted green and have the red triangle, the emblem of the organization, above the door. The Y. M. C. A. workers wear gray uniforms with the red triangle on the sleeve. Most of the workers are University men.

POLITY CLUB REORGANIZES

Adopts Platform to Show No Sympathy With Kaiser.

The reorganization of the International Polity Club of the University was affected Tuesday night with the following platform as an outline for the year's work and to demonstrate that the club in no way sympathizes with the kaiser:

"The International Polity Club of the University will devote its energies during the coming year to a study and discussion of the foreign policy of the United States as it has been outlined by President Wilson during the past year. The establishment of a new international society has already been accomplished by the United States' entering the war, and the energies and loyalties of the whole nation have been enlisted in perpetuating it, and in insuring its security for the future.

It has therefore become the duty of every citizen to equip himself for an intelligent understanding of the international polity and of the political problems which will confront the United States during the next few years. For the performance of this duty the International Polity Club will seek to offer the preparation, and by maintaining forum for the discus-

sion of questions of international policy it will endeavor to make its contribution to the nation's service." Attendance at three meetings of the club was made a requirement for admission to membership. Sessions will be held every other Tuesday night and be carried on according to the arrangements of the executive committee.




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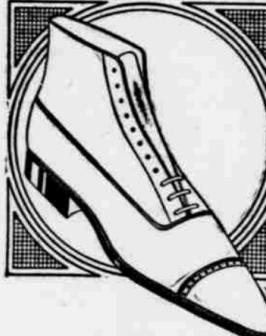
By Freeman Tilden

Crabtree is a shrewd farmer-financier. His experiences will amuse you and also give you valuable information about the methods of the city sharpers. The first story in this new series is in this week's number.




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