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WHY HESITATE?

Observers in Russia and elsewhere in Europe who have given months and, in some instances, years to the study of the political questions there, urge the necessity for immediate intervention by the allies in the Russian situation, to the end that Germany shall be prevented from obtaining absolute control of Russia and Siberia.

The danger of such progress in the east cannot be exaggerated. Germany, for many years, has been attempting to foment revolution in India. Should the kaiser obtain dominion over the Russian territory he could accept defeat in the west and still be victor in the world war.

It is only logical, therefore, that the allies should take every step possible to create a fighting front in the east, where Germany would be compelled to turn her attention to defense rather than to invasion and oppression.

It is there to be a choice, in the end, as to whether Siberia shall be dominated by Germany or Japan, even if the allies must permit Japan to work her will in that country as the price of her military action in the present crisis.

The Courier does not accept the theory that Japan must be restricted in her military operations in the far east as an ally of the other nations fighting Germany. We are disposed to accept the assurance of the Japanese government that its desire is not for conquest of Siberia.

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coal cars to mines without discrimination. The decrease in price is of no importance to the general public as compared to the question of coal production, but the price has been under discussion so long that production has suffered materially.

The average householder, representative of the general public, buys from twelve to twenty tons of coal in a year. The reduction in price will mean a reduction of \$1 or \$2 in his coal bill for the coming winter.

On its face this means a measure of economy in the interest of the general public which would be compelled to pay the extra sum through taxes or increased freight rates had the price not been lowered.

The history of the government's handling of the coal situation has not been one to inspire confidence in the prospect for its continuation when normal conditions shall have been reached after the war.

It is good to hear from the president himself that politics is adjourned. That was one of the outstanding sentences in the straightforward, sensible statement which he read to congress yesterday.

But his greatest error is in permitting himself to be over-ruled and dominated by Secretary McAdoo as director general of railroads. It is the difference between them, arising over the price to be charged railroads for coal, which is responsible for the loss of coal production in the country this summer.

In view of Mr. McAdoo's activities regarding railroad taxes it is not unreasonable to conclude that he is giving much thought to the balance sheet which will show the financial results of his management of the railroads.

Events indicate that they did not agree with his will. The house, including the republicans, agreed to Majority Leader Kitchin's proposal to postpone legislation until after the fall election and then pass the bill through on a limited time schedule in a special session to open early in November.

Then the president stepped into the breach with his address of yesterday. He has set congress to the task of remaining in session all summer, but he also has demanded that a law be enacted. He placed the emphasis on the need for fairness, a feature which Mr. Kitchin and his friends overlooked in their anxiety to postpone the tax law until after the fall crop of votes should be harvested.

As far as the republicans are concerned, then, it does not seem that they can be charged with taking a partisan attitude on the question of war revenue legislation. It is difficult to find a difference between their position and that expressed by the president.

Only those who know the sticky heat of a Washington summer and can sense the anxieties that beset an office holder when he is far away from his constituency on the eve of a campaign can appreciate the position in which President Wilson found himself yesterday when he set about urging congress to remain in session until the new war revenue measure should be enacted.

He is asking no more of the representatives and senators, however, than he has done or will do himself. He has arranged to remain in Washington through the summer and there will be no "hot weather capital" in New England this year, because Mr. Wilson regards his duties at Washington too pressing to permit a long absence.

Texans have expected a declaration of war from Mexico at any time during several months. Rumors have been rife regarding the training of Mexican troops near the border, under command of German officers.

The Tampico oil fields have supplied fuel oil to the United States and allied navies. If the supply should be withheld serious difficulties would result until other oil fields could be sufficiently developed.

Large bodies of American troops are in camp not far from the Mexican border. They have spent several months there and are acclimated. They are well drilled and equipped.

Such a war has been among the possibilities since 1914. If it comes it will be handled effectively although it may claim some attention from the larger struggle in France.

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his voice during the weeks while the pre-election contest was being waged. His reasons for asking action on the revenue bill without a long postponement are good ones. He pointed out that the tax the new bill is to levy must be paid from the profits on business done this year.

The president also warned congress that the treasury department must know the amount of revenues to be made available before it can arrange its affairs for the coming year. This fact needs no argument, and these two reasons are sufficient justification for a presidential demand which is in effect sentences the law makers and many others to a torrid summer in Washington.

Without presuming to criticize the increases in railroad freight rates and passenger fares which Director General McAdoo says are necessary, it is quite worthy of notice and commendation that he has called for no other language but English in schools, churches, public meetings or in conversation.

It was made plain, when the proclamation was issued, that it was designed to eliminate the German language, but the word "German" is not to be found in the document. It is extremely broad, however, in ruling against every foreign language, whether it be that of a people friendly to America or committed to war against us.

It is pretty generally agreed that the German language is under the ban in Iowa and all over America. That is in accordance with a well grounded contempt for Germany and all its works. But no such grievance exists against the lands from which come French, Swedes, Norwegians, Russians, Danes, Spaniards, Italians, Greeks, Servians, Japanese or Chinese immigrants.

1. Since the director general announces that the extra expense which the new rates are to meet does not include nearly \$1,000,000,000 which will be disbursed for improvements, new equipment and expansion this year, it is not fair to assume that the outlay which he does balance against the anticipated increase in revenues would be necessary if the lines were not under federal control?

2. Accepting Mr. McAdoo's statement that these expenses are necessary, would it have been possible for the railroads to convince the interstate commerce commission and the public of that fact if the lines still were under private ownership?

3. In view of the economies which the railroad administration is practicing, instanced by the discharge of high salaried officials, discontinuing of trains, curtailing of heavy equipment, combining of city ticket offices, various other moves which cause the public some inconvenience but are accepted cheerfully as a part of the hardships of war, could the railroads have had any other means of making similar economies, and how great an increase in rates would the have been forced to demand?

4. As an economic measure and as a war measure, is the experiment in quasi-public ownership of railroad proving the wonderful success which was prophesied for it by jubilant socialists and by a great many other men who had spent years railing at the railroads before the government gathered them in?

These are questions which have no relation to the war, to be sure. Perhaps they would not occur just now if it were not for the fact that certain newspapers and certain law makers and certain other public officials are making some such assertion as this: "The men who had been running the railroads couldn't serve the public in the war emergency; they had to admit their inefficiency and turn the job over to Secretary McAdoo."

The Courier would not dim the luster of a single jewel in Mr. McAdoo's numerous decorations. Gladly it yields him praise for being able to carry more titles than almost anybody else on earth. Cheerfully it agrees with those who say he is doing big things in quite a big way. But certainly there would be credit enough for any man in a record of having so directed the transportation systems of the country as to increase their efficiency and bring them up to the exacting standards demanded by the war emergency.

If Mr. McAdoo does this he will have done much. He is not doing it after the fashion which public opinion would demand that he or anyone else should follow in any but a time of war. The success he shall attain will be measured, not by the balance sheet of expenditures, but by the service which the railroads perform in the interests of the nation and in the prosecution of the war.

MR. CREEL, AGAIN The announcement by the federal trade commission that two large packing concerns, members of the famous "big five" have sold spoiled meat to the government for the use of the army recalls one of the many remarks made by the talkative Mr. Creel in a short address by way of excusing shortcomings in some war department bureaus.

Mr. Creel chose to refer to the "embalmed beef" scandal on that occasion, citing it to prove his assertion that under a republican administration in 1898 the war department was open to severe criticism. At that time The Courier suggested that evidence against an unscrupulous contractor was not an even balance with evidence against an inefficient or negligent government official and ventured the assertion that a parallel for the "embalmed beef" episode might occur during the present war without reflecting discredit on the administration.

The parallel is at hand, indeed, and no one considers it in the slightest degree a reflection on anyone identified with the government. That is to say, no one so considers it unless it might be Mr. Creel, whose brand of logic is as remarkable as his capacity for saying the wrong thing.

As might have been expected, protest has been made against Governor Harding's "sweeping" proclamation which calls on Iowans to use no other language but English in schools, churches, public meetings or in conversation.

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Bohemians in Cedar Rapids expect to lead a meeting of protest tomorrow. Over in Italy, Bohemian soldiers who the German influence in Austria-Hungary have forsaken allegiance to the dual empire and have joined the Italian army are trying to fight against the very imperialism which they are trying to crush. The Bohemians in Cedar Rapids have given evidence of their loyalty repeatedly.

If Mr. Harding wants to give the German language a knockout blow in Iowa he has an opportunity to promulgate a proclamation about it, and public opinion would support his attitude. But if he is aiming at Germany it is ridiculous to fix a verbal volley which hits every nation on the world's map.

The governor is impetuous and, apparently, quite taken with the idea of his own loyalty. It is evident that he approaches the writing of a proclamation in much the same spirit which impels him to frame some particularly striking phrase to draw applause in an after dinner speech. This is an error into which few public men fall, for most of them realize that a public speaker can "stand away with" deliberate care, and that it is set down in black and white and divorced from the atmosphere of black coffee, perfects, dinner coats, bunting, oratory, frantic gestures and bursts of applause.

How long these lists are held before they are given to the newspapers and public is a problem the layman cannot solve. But in the case of Lieutenant Schafer the delay amounts to thirty-seven days. His name appeared in yesterday's casualty list.

Major Lufberry's name was published in every American newspaper the day after his death, which occurred May 19. But his name found its way into the casualty list only yesterday.

If the war department delayed none but the public announcement there would be less reason for complaint. But to withhold the news of a soldier's injury or death from his next of kin seems entirely unjust. Delays such as Lieutenant Schafer's case instances should be avoided by the war department. The kinsmen of soldiers have every right to expect the demand of official notification without delay. The loose, unsystematic method being followed in regard to the casualty lists with suspension.

When the list was discontinued suddenly, announcement was made that the action was taken at the request of General Pershing. Weeks were consumed in waiting for him, presumably, to give his consent in turn to the abbreviated list and then to the sort that is published now. The facts do not encourage one to believe that General Pershing had a great deal, if any, to do with the strange mixture of conflicting orders. It is evident that he forwards the casualty lists with reasonable promptness. It is certain that there is considerable delay in their progress through the war department's offices. It is probable that the list in which Congressman Ramseyer found the Ottumwa soldier's name on May 23 had been received at Washington weeks before, but the department gave no notice to Lieutenant Schafer's parents until May 28.

Children's Evening Story

THE BEST OF FRIENDS

In spite of his lengthened horns, Leaper the Locust hardly dared show himself while his cousins remained in the neighborhood. But when he did venture out, not one of the hungry horde paid the slightest heed to him. They just ate and ate and ate. And Pleasant valley soon began to take on a brown, withered look, as if fall had already come.

Kiddie Katydid soon saw that he would have to move if Leaper's cousins lingered there much longer. And he didn't like the thought of quitting his home. "I wouldn't mind going, if I could take Farmer Green's dooryard with me," he remarked to a long-horned gentleman who stopped to talk with him one evening. "But, of course," Kiddie added with a smile, "that's out of the question."

"I'll agree with you," said the other. "In fact, I'm ready to agree to almost anything you say." "These Short-Horns are a terrible lot," Kiddie Katydid observed. "They are, indeed!" exclaimed the polite stranger. "I wish they'd finish their visit here and leave us in peace."

"I never want to see another Short-Horn as long as I live," Kiddie Katydid declared. "Nor I," echoed the strange gentleman. And Kiddie Katydid couldn't help thinking what a pleasant person the long-horned stranger was and how gentle were his manners.

"I'd like to know your name," he said. "It's a long time since I have met anybody so agreeable as you are." The stranger drew nearer and lowered his voice. "Do you know me?" he asked. "Kiddie Katydid stared at him for a moment. "No," he said at length. "To be sure you do have a familiar look, in a way, but I must say I don't recognize you." Then the stranger spoke in a whisper: "They used to call me 'Leaper the locust!'"

rise of the story about the misshapen boy whose classmates had told their reasons for observing Thanksgiving and who was compelled to admit, when his turn came, that from his owlish to his flat feet the Creator had "just about ruined him." There was a time when the Americans had entered the battle zone, when intelligible and informative casualty lists were issued by the war department. Then they were discontinued altogether, and later they reappeared, to give only the names of the men. This was so unsatisfactory that after a long delay Secretary Baker announced that the home addresses would be included. At the same time he gave out the cheerful news that he had perfected plans for reducing the delay in official announcements. Newspapers and the public were given to understand that they would be given facts from the front rapidly, and everything would be lovely.

The case of Lieutenant Walter B. Schafer serves to indicate that, whatever Mr. Baker intended to do to better the arrangements that existed, he just about ruined them. In Lieutenant Schafer's case instances should be avoided by the war department. The kinsmen of soldiers have every right to expect the demand of official notification without delay. The loose, unsystematic method being followed in regard to the casualty lists with suspension.

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It is possible that the red tape or clerical inefficiency is responsible for the unsatisfactory operation of the war department's information bureau. Certainly military expediency does not explain nor excuse the withholding of the names of soldiers like Schafer, Lufberry, Hall and Chapman from the casualty list for days and weeks after the facts about them were published in the newspapers.

Yesterday the war department made public a portion of General Pershing's communique from France which had been received Monday night and withheld by day from Washington, memos-

Go 'way!

"Go 'way!" cried Kiddie Katydid. "He was nothing but a Short-Horned Grasshopper. And anyone can see that your horns are fully as long as my own."

"They're not real horns," said the other sadly. "That is, they're real only a part of the way." And looking more closely, Kiddie Katydid saw that what he said was true. It was indeed Leaper the Locust. And he was greatly changed in more ways than one. He had lost his old, quarrelsome air; and he had become very meek and mild.

"Don't tell my cousins what I've done," he begged Kiddie Katydid. "I don't want them to know who I am." Kiddie assured the poor fellow that he would not betray him. He was sorry for Leaper the Locust. "You'll be glad when your relations move on, won't you?" he said. "Then you can take those bits of grass off your horns and be yourself again."

Leaper's answer almost took Kiddie Katydid's breath away. "I'm never going to be a Short-Horn again!" he declared. "I shall wear my horns long to the end of my days." He kept his word, too. And so earnestly did he try to be like Kiddie Katydid in every way that he even attempted Kiddie's well known Katy did melody. But he never really succeeded at that. Anyone with an ear for music could tell the difference at once.

Luckily the grasshopper horde soon swept on to new fields. And a few warm rains, with sunshine sandwiched in between showers, soon turned the countryside green again. It was really pleasant to see the grass grow. And on fine autumn nights Kiddie Katydid's shrill music could be heard more than ever near the farm house.

Leaper the Locust never could hear enough of it. He was always begging Kiddie to repeat the odd ditty about the mysterious Katy, hoping, perhaps, that sometime he might learn more about her. But Kiddie Katydid guarded his secret too well. (The end)

DINNER STORIES

"Twas a dark and stormy night. An automobile might have been seen chugging along a deserted highway in Jersey, toward a munition plant. It began to rain. Sonrad, our hero, for it was none other than he, said to himself: 'Ach! it raining is. I must look on at the bomb to see if the fuse is damp yet.' He took the bomb and looked at it but could not see it on account of the darkness. 'I think I will strike me a match and see if the bomb is all right yet.' He did so and— (The end)

A friend of the poet Bryant chanced to be alone in his study when a cabinet maker brought home a chair that had been altered. When Mr. Bryant returned he asked "Miss Roberts, what did the man say about my chair?" "He said," answered the visitor, "that the equilibrium is now admirably adjusted." "What a fine fellow," said Mr. Bryant, laughing. "I never heard him talk like that! Were those his exact words?" "Well," he said, "it joggles just right!" repeated Miss Roberts.

An eastern statesman made an awful hit the other evening with his speech. He had discovered a new system to bring out the cheers. Every two minutes, by the clock, he mentioned the name of some famous man. On that evening he made them cheer nine times for the president, seven times for Colonel Roosevelt, five times for Pershing, and he even managed to squeeze out a handicap by mentioning Herbert.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Centerville, May 29.—Friends here have received announcement of the marriage of Miss Lottie Lester and William Willard Felker, at Ottumwa, on Saturday, May 25.—Miss Lester was teacher of geometry in the Centerville High school for several years, and has many friends here. The groom is an attorney. They will be at home at 810 Kirkwood avenue, Iowa City, after September 1.

ORDNANCE BUREAU IS MORE EFFICIENT

Washington, D. C. May 29.—Changes in the organization of the ordnance department of the army to permit increased efficiency in divisions charged with the execution of the ordnance program were announced today by Major General Wheeler, acting chief of ordnance. Creation of an estimate and procurement division is the most important of the changes made. Hitherto the work of this branch has been carried on under the administrative division. A new estimates and requirements division will be charged with administrative of the man power program of the general staff.

WHITE HOUSE WOOL AT \$125 PER POUND

Springfield, Ills., May 29.—Governor Lowden wrote a check for \$250 today to pay for two pounds of wool grown on sheep feeding on the white house lawn. The governor was the highest bidder for the clip. The money goes to the Red Cross.