

The Alliance Herald

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AN OVERWORKED WORD

Let your thoughts stray back to the days of the war and recall the way the word "propaganda" was overworked in the tragic hours when every hamlet had a thousand patriots doing detective work. Men, women and children had to watch their step pretty closely, and keep a steady control of their tongues, for someone was pretty sure to twist almost any careless utterance, harmless or otherwise, into German propaganda. Now, all this was just as it should be, for in time of war it is much better that four innocent people be unduly punished than that one guilty person escape.

Unfortunately, the word "propaganda" was mightily abused, and has become a word of odium. The surest way to squelch your opponent when you do not agree with him, is to mutter that the talk he is making sounds like propaganda to you, and immediately everyone within the sound of your voice will conjure up visions of spies and tale-bearers and other lowdown characters. If you can work in the word "propaganda" only four times in any heated argument, you have won hands down and estopped your opponent from making effective answer. According to Webster's as well as other standard dictionaries, there is nothing inherently bad about that word. There is far more good propaganda than there is the other kind, only the word was used so much during the war that it is still definitely associated with the German campaign and therefore much to be despised.

It has been charged that those people who are resisting the movement to make Sabbath observance conform to the ideas of the religious element of the country are spreading a dangerous propaganda, and by their action are branding themselves as un-American. Those are rather harsh words. Somehow, we have a totally different idea of Americanism. We agree perfectly with the expressed idea that no class should rule this country—either labor or capital—intellect or ignorance. Why not carry this thought further, and admit that neither the religious or irreligious element should govern?

The peculiar thing about the religious mind is that while it smarts most under injustice or intolerance, it is the first to grow intolerant and unjust when given the opportunity. There has never been a time when the irreligious sought to make the religious conform to their ideas of living or conduct. There has never been a time when the puritans and their modern descendants were satisfied to let the other half of the world live their lives as they see fit, without let, hindrance or restriction.

If those who wish to restore to the Sabbath the standards of the Puritans will stop and consider, they will understand readily why their actions are looked upon with suspicion. Men do not like to be forced to act according to the lights of others, whether the way of others be better than their own or worse.

It is not argument to say that the whole blue law agitation is a myth. There is hardly a state in the union where measures of one kind and another, supporting such a belief, are not up for consideration. It is unfair to characterize the opposition to these regulatory measures as "propaganda" for this or that, for the brewers and distillers, for the moving picture men, or for other criminally minded people—criminals because they do not believe as do the strict Sabbatharians. The Sabbath, it has been said by the Highest Authority, was made for man—not man for the Sabbath. What could be more equitable than to let man choose the way in which he shall spend the hours of his one day of rest?

NEBRASKA IN THE LEAD

Nebraska led the United States during 1920 in the construction of new highways. This state built 1,307.5 miles; Texas, which ranked second, built 976.59, and Minnesota came third with 911.06. And in Nebraska almost as many more miles are now under construction. The total amount of new roads built in this country last year is equal to five parallel trans-continental highways—duplicates of the Lincoln highway.

What is still better is that 1921 bids far to eclipse the record made last year, both in Nebraska and in the country at large. There is now over a billion dollars in state and federal aid money available for highway construction. Materials are cheaper; labor is not so scarce nor so expensive—and an early spring is here.

Nebraska could want no greater distinction than being the leader in the good roads movement. There is no one public improvement that will benefit as many people at so slight a cost. Box Butte county, with something like \$60,000 in funds available for this purpose, has a board of county commissioners who are anxious to utilize every cent at their disposal during this year. With proper co-operation, with no more monkey wrenches thrown into the machinery, 1921 will see an unprecedented amount of road work right here at home.

DO YOUR VOTING EARLY

Today is a most important date for those who are interested in good city government for Alliance. This is the day when the voters will select ten candidates for the city council out of nineteen men and women. Five of the ten selected will be chosen next month to put into effect the city manager plan.

The Herald has played no favorites in this race. This newspaper believes that the voters, so long as they are not subject to selfish influences on the part of those who have axes to grind, will be able to make a sensible selection. With so good a list of candidates, it really makes little difference as to whom we shall choose.

One pleasant thing about the campaign has been the absence of the usual advice to the voters, on the part of the press and others. It has been a charming bit of fiction in American life—this belief in the intelligence of the voters. It has always been considered a pleasant thing to say to them collectively or individually, but really neither

politician or any one else has, down deep in their hearts, believed it. Another thing that has added joy to the primary campaign has been the absence of personalities. There has been no mudslinging. Some of the candidates have not been backward about pressing their claims, but none of them has attempted to say anything evil of his competitor. If this means that a new era has been ushered in in city politics, it is one of the finest things that can be said for the city manager plan. Let us knock wood, however, for the campaign is not yet over.

About the best news that the ex-soldiers have received in months comes with the announcement that the International Rotary clubs have decided to lend their influence and support in the securing of justice for the wounded and disabled. The Legion has put up a good fight, and has made wonderful progress, but in a time when so many of the buddies are in desperate straits, it isn't sufficient to be able to report progress. The Rotary clubs have showed the way for dozens of other civic organizations. Only a few more such recruits and a congress slow to act will be overwhelmed with the weight of public opinion. That's the thing that is needed, genuine evidence that public indignation has been aroused. Once congress gets the correct point of view, needed hospitals will be established, and the broken men who fought the battle of all of us will not need to suffer through the negligence of those who should be grateful to them.

HIGH FREIGHT RATES

(Lincoln Star.)

There is scarcely a commodity on the market today which is not greatly boosted in price because of the extraordinary high freight rates now prevailing. The transportation charges on many items are almost equal to the original cost of the article. But to make matters worse, the high freight rates have by no means accomplished what they were intended to do. When the railway properties were returned to their owners they were in such a run-down condition and the companies in such bad financial straits that it seemed imperative that freight rates be greatly increased. This was done, but the sudden decline in transportation was not anticipated and the result is that the railways' incomes are far below the necessary amount, in many instances, to provide proper rehabilitation. The lesson to be learned is that there is a limit to which freight rates may be boosted without greatly reducing the total income. Incidentally, high freight rates are eviving shipments by water route. Last week several million feet of Douglas fir were bought on the Pacific coast. This lumber is to be shipped by water via the Panama canal to Philadelphia and from there it will be hauled by rail to Ohio. The water rate is \$15 per thousand feet and the combined cost of the loading, unloading and backhaul by rail is considerably less than the rate for hauling the lumber overland by rail. Motor truck transportation will also receive an impetus from the high freight rates and rail transportation will be further reduced. It is evident that higher freight rates will solve the railways' problems. The only other solution is cheaper operating expense and unless all indications fail this will come in the near future.

VICTORY CROWNED HIS EFFORTS

(New York Life.)

The former service man sat looking at a large stack of papers, consisting of:

Twenty-seven letters from the war risk bureau, each one setting forth a new ruling to overrule the last ruling regarding his insurance.

Seventeen letters informing him how to apply for compensation.

Twenty-two letters informing him that his claim had been received.

Thirty-five letters asking for a new kind of affidavit.

Twenty-two letters advising him that the board was going through his record.

Fourteen letters asking if he could swear that all the previous ones had been sworn to.

Eighteen letters advising him to make an application for a new examination.

Sixteen letters requesting him to swear that he was his mother's son.

Twenty-six letters suggesting the advantages of vocational training.

Sixty from the vocational board telling him that his case was being looked into.

Thirty informing him that his case had been looked into.

Forty that his case was still being considered.

Ten acquainting him with the fact that he would be granted compensation if he could furnish the necessary proof that he served in the army.

Three stating that he would be advised later regarding the advice contained in the last letter.

He was out of work, without funds, so his only diversion was looking through the sheaf of "promissory notes."

Hope had long since grown tired of buying him up when one day the postman rang, bringing him a Victory Medal.

"Now I should worry," he thought. "Hot dog! This medal will make an excellent paper weight to keep this pile together."

COME OUT OF IT

(Emporia Gazette)

Prices are dropping. Merchants are making the most of their losses. Stockmen have taken theirs and are beginning to forget and buy cattle again. Farmers are putting their losses in long-time obligations, bankers are charging off bad paper. The world, inside its offices and in its houses and in the fields and at work, is forgetting the nightmare of 1920. It is impossible that depression shall last. After all, life must be normal.

The depression has lasted long enough. The thing to do is to come out of it. What if some of us are "broke"? What if some of us have changed places with our office boys? What if some of us have lost a lot of money? These things have happened in the world before and the world has gone right on. It will continue to go right on in the face of all the tragedy that came into the world in 1920 as it went on in the face of the deeper tragedies that cursed mankind from 1914 to 1918.

The thing to do now is to spit on one's hands and to begin life anew. It is the same good old world that it always was. Opportunities for making money and making happiness are here as they always have been and always will be. The chance for usefulness is as wide today as it ever has been.

In the readjustment we will find a new world. Wages will be higher than they were before the war, but not as high as they were last year, though high enough so that labor will enjoy the full fruits of the civilization which it is building. Farm products will not be so high as they were during the war, but they will be high enough to make a good living for the farmer and let him send his sons and daughters to high school and college, and pay off the mortgage that he put on last year and still get something ahead. The storekeeper will come into his own, and the new automobiles will keep crowding the streets of Emporia and of every other country town in America, and the people will wear good clothes and eat good food and build good houses just the same as if the war never had happened and the panic of 1920 never had occurred.

The thing that is needed now mostly, is for every human being to catch himself by the forehead and the chin and telescope his face. It is just as easy to be cheerful and grin as it is to sigh and wail. The world is wagging on, and the man who gets aboard the old world at the new gait is the man who is going to be happy and make the most in the long run.

So come out of it.
Forget it.
Buck up.
Hit the ball.
Play the game.

PRINTER'S MISTAKES ARE FEW SAVE WHEN THEY ARE MANY

The printer makes less mistakes than any other professional man. The plumber soaks you twice for his mistakes, the lawyer tries his case over at your expense, the doctor buries his, the preacher is safe, for no one knows the difference. The poor old printer has no chance, his mistake is multiplied by the number of copies he prints. That is why he makes less mistakes than his fellows. If he did not the bughouse would be his home. When we make a mistake we first cuss everything and everybody in sight and then laugh over the fact that we have made a fool of ourselves again and survived. Because you have occasional spells of despondency, don't despair. The sun has a sinking spell every night but it rises again all right the next morning. Emerson says: Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt creep in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays.—The Mangander.

AMERICA FIRST

An old Flemish pitcher sold in New York the other day for \$180, but a first-class young American pitcher will bring a good deal more.—Providence Journal.

Open winters are all right in their way, but open summers are better.

Do you know
you can roll
50 good
cigarettes for
10cts from
one bag of



GENUINE
"BULL" DURHAM
TOBACCO
The American Tobacco Co.

There will be no great resistance to the abolition of Russian money by the soviet government, since Russian money now has about the value of waste paper.

The knee-length skirt is but a passing fad, according to the style authorities and will not be generally adopted. Somebody is always taking the joy out of life.

A noted comedian claims that spooks inhabit a house recently bought. But is there anything an actor likes better than seeing the ghost walk?

France wants Germany to pay her way in, objecting to any complimentary tickets.

The high cost of living has attached romance in Burma, where the price of wives has gone up.

How does Your Old Furniture Look?

WHY NOT BRIGHTEN IT UP WITH "WOOD VAR STAIN"

We have several quarts of this varnish stain that any housewife can apply herself and work wonders in the looks of the old furniture. Colors are:

MAHOGANY, WALNUT, OAK NATURAL

We are going to close out our stock of "Wood Var Stain" at a bargain price. If you can use any of it, we urge you to come soon so you can get what you will need.

TO CLOSE OUT
at, Quart **\$1.10**

WALL FLAT—ROSE COLOR ONLY

Use it to rejuvenate the walls. It will brighten things up for a minimum of cost.

ONE FULL GALLON **\$3.00**

HYGIENIC KALSOMIME

IN SIXTEEN TINTS AND WHITE

Hygienic Kalsomime is cheaper than wall paper or paint and is particularly desirable at this time of the year when your thoughts turn naturally to dressing up the home.

WE HAVE IT IN ALL FINISHES

F. J. BRENNAN

304 Box Butte

Your Business Partner



It is a good bank's duty to assist its clients in the solution of its problems—whether they be the problems of a merchant or a farmer. Both are business men.

In fulfilling this moral obligation, we like to consider our organization as your business partner—interested in your success and eager to forward your plans.

Confidential Counsel

If you wish sound advice in seeking credit, making investments, or even the more personal problems of your business, you will be welcomed here. You will find a talk with our officers helpful.

This service is in addition to those commonly attributed to banks and is a mark of our appreciation for your account.

We want to show you that this bank wants your business. And we want to show you the many practical benefits you receive through placing it here.

FIRST STATE BANK

ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA