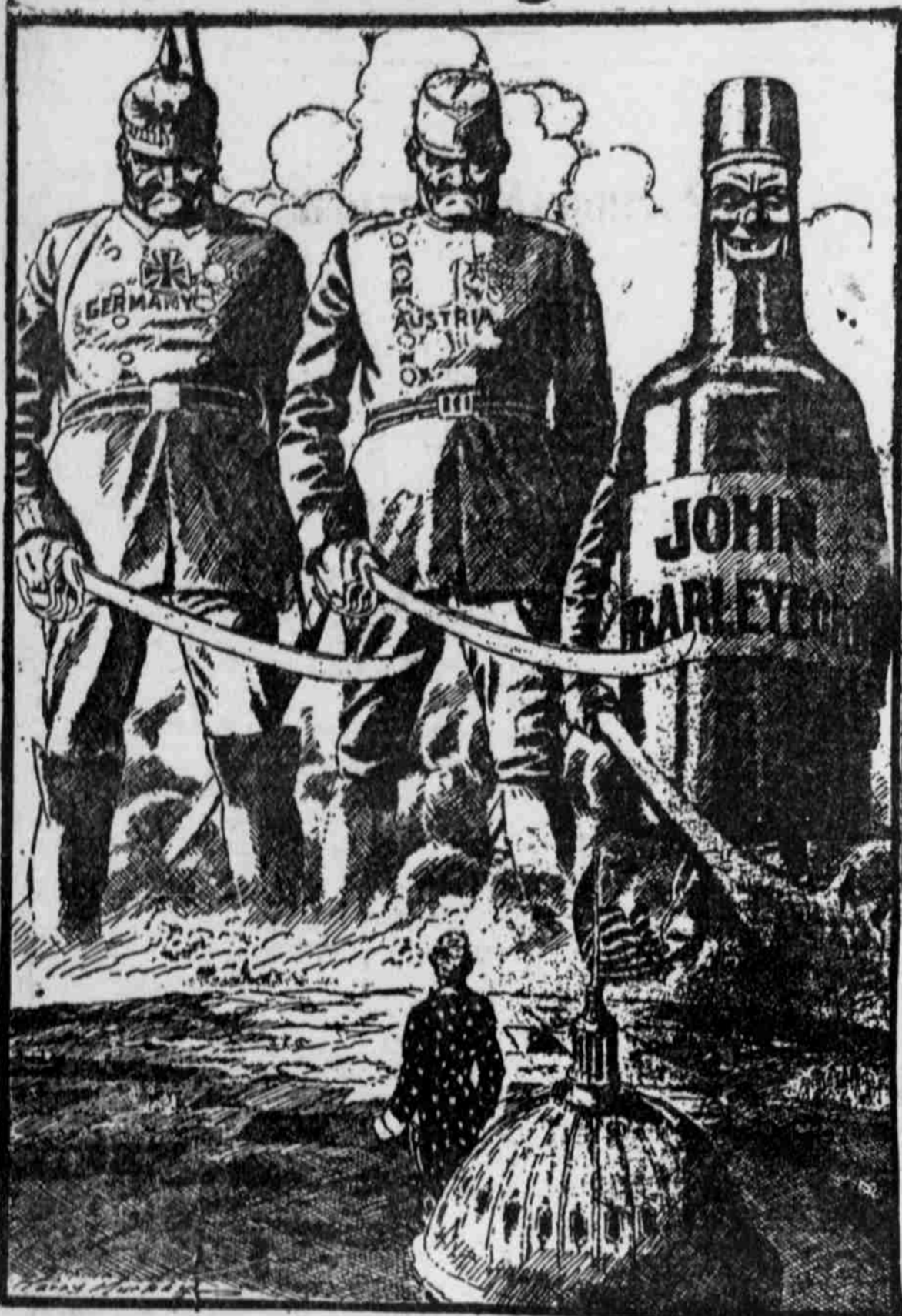


## Our Three Big Enemies



—From The Chicago Examiner.

### PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF COAL MINES

An important committee of the United States senate has recommended the government ownership and operation of the coal mines in the United States. Following upon the heels of this senatorial action comes the passage of the following resolution by the Massachusetts house of representatives:

"Whereas, The inhabitants of this commonwealth have suffered severely from the exactions of the present operators of the coal mines, who have frequently driven their employes to desperation by their inhuman treatment, have failed to provide sufficient coal when it was greatly needed by the public, and have charged exorbitant prices for such coal as has been procurable; and,

"Whereas, It is of the opinion of the general court of Massachusetts that public ownership and operation of coal mines would be of great advantage to the citizens of Massachusetts; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the general court of Massachusetts respectfully requests the enactment of legislation of congress providing for such public ownership and operation of coal mines."

Thus the march of progress goes on without halting. Thus are the foundations of democracy being laid deeper and deeper. Ownership, and especially direct operation of the great natural monopolies and utilities like the railroads, the street railways, the telephone, the gas and electric light companies, water power com-

panies and coal mines, are rapidly coming in America, and by that sign democracy is drawing nearer to safety in America.

The private ownership and control of these great public utilities has been the source of nearly all the political corruption and the dangerous concentration of wealth so threatening to our American democracy.

When the people drive these private managers out of the control of these important public functions, just as Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple, and when we also have the initiative and referendum, we shall see a return to the good old days when our public life was free from corruption, when our representatives will represent us and not powerful special private interests, when the word politician will spell "honor," when the increase in wealth-creating power of the community all will go to the community, when we shall have a democracy in fact as well as a democracy in theory, and when we shall enjoy all the good fruits of a real democracy.—Los Angeles Examiner.

### FARMERS REQUEST SALOON CLOSING

A Marysville, Cal., dispatch, dated May 28, says: Following closely upon the passing of resolutions favoring the closing of saloons by the farm bureaus of Yuba and Sutter counties, petitions are being circulated among the farmers and business men of both counties requesting each one to use their utmost endeavor

or to have the licensing authorities of Yuba county, Yuba city and Marysville suspend the issuance of saloon licenses during the month of July, August, September and October, 1918, so that all saloons in these counties shall remain closed throughout the ensuing harvest season.

This is being urged as a war measure and it is believed the closing of the saloons here in the summer as suggested will be followed in the Sacramento valley; will result in quicker action than is possible by any other method and immediately will relieve the labor situation.

It is assumed the chambers of commerce of the twin counties will soon act upon the petitions, which will be sent to these civic bodies, and that they will in turn take the matter up with the board of supervisors of Yuba county, the Marysville city council and the Yuba city board of trustees.

The following is the petition circulated:

To the Chamber of Commerce of Marysville and all business men of Marysville and of Yuba City, Cal. Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned farmers and employers of Yuba and Sutter counties, your neighbors, your friends and patrons, recognizing that the existing and impending difficulty in obtaining adequate labor for this season's harvest has created a serious crisis here, as well as throughout the state and nation, and believing that nothing should be left undone by patriotic citizens to conserve the full efficiency of available labor, do hereby respectfully request that you use your utmost endeavor to have the licensing authorities of Yuba county, Yuba city and Marysville suspend the issuance of saloon licenses during the months of July, August, September and October, 1918, so that all saloons in these two counties shall remain closed throughout the ensuing harvest season.

We urge this as a war measure, and we believe the closing of the saloons here in the manner suggested will be followed throughout the Sacramento valley; will result in quicker action than is possible by any other method, and immediately will relieve the labor situation.

### DANIELS HINTS OF DRAFT 18-60

A New Brunswick, N. J., dispatch, dated May 21, says: America is prepared to draft men from 18 up to 60 years old if that becomes necessary to win the war, declared Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, in an address today at the alumni dinner of Rutgers college. Mr. Daniels predicted that "before another summer we will have enough ships to carry not only a million, but millions to France, and enough destroyers to carry them in safety."

Previous to the dinner, President W. H. Demarest of Rutgers had conferred upon Secretary Daniels the honorary degree of doctor of laws. Secretary Daniels said in part:

"Almost every day I am called upon to give a name to a ship—and we are going to get them out faster. We are going to get out the greatest naval ships produced, the destroyers on which men do not sleep for days and do not eat except standing up. I have knowledge of one destroyer which convoyed 177 ships safely and traversed 100,000 miles in six months.

"Young men in college from 18 to 21 should stay in college until they reach the latter age. All the training they receive, mental and military, fits them for a larger service. "The day may come when, if

necessary, congress may change the age limit, because men from 21 to 31 can not win the war. They will then call men from 18 to 60 to win the war.

"The great drive of the Prussians a month ago was made because the German emperor well knows that when America gets enough ships to carry over her forces, the end has come. When this war began we had only a handful—but America can do anything."

### COMPULSORY MARRIAGE OF GERMANS BEFORE 20

An Associated Press dispatch, dated London, May 17, says: The German commission appointed to examine the decline in the birth rate in Germany has reported a recommendation for the compulsory marriage of Germans before their twentieth year is passed, according to a dispatch to the Daily Express from Amsterdam.

Financial assistance would be granted by the state, according to this plan, which provides penalties for those failing to comply. Provision also is made for the punishment of married couples who remain childless.

A report compiled by the local government board, based on information from German sources, shows a fall in the birth rate in Germany during the three years 1915-17, inclusive, equivalent to the loss of 2,000,000 infants. Forty per cent fewer births occurred in 1916 than in 1913. These figures are compared with a decrease of 10 per cent in the birth rate in England and Wales.

The infantile death rate in Germany has been kept well down, but nevertheless, the report shows, is 50 per cent higher than in England and Wales.

## CLUBBING OFFERS

To save money for our readers, the following combination offers have been arranged. If you desire publications not included in this list, send us the names of same and we will submit best combination prices by return mail. Nearly all publications furnished at reduced prices.

	Regular Price	Our Price with Special Commoner Price
American Boy (monthly)	\$2.50	\$1.95
Army & Navy Mag. (mo.)	4.00	3.00
Army & Navy News (mo.)	2.00	1.65
Ass'n Men (Y.M.C.A. (mo.)	2.00	1.75
Atlan. Constitution (2-wk)	2.00	1.65
Automobile Topics (wkly)	3.00	2.50
Auto Review (monthly)	2.00	1.45
Bench & Bar (monthly)	4.50	3.80
Boys Magazine (monthly)	2.00	1.45
Breeders Gazette (wkly)	2.50	2.25
Christian Herald (wkly)	3.00	2.25
Cincinnati Wkly Enquirer	1.75	1.35
Cinci. Daily Post (6 issues)	4.00	3.45
Current Opinion (m'thly)	4.00	3.35
Etude (monthly, musical)	2.50	1.95
Film Fun (monthly)	2.00	1.50
Fine Arts J'nal (m'thly)	4.00	3.40
Household (monthly)	1.25	1.00
Independent (wkly, N.Y.)	5.00	4.35
LaFollette's (monthly)	2.00	1.35
McCall's Magazine (mo.)	1.75	1.25
McClure's Magazine (mo.)	2.50	1.95
Mo. Valley Farmer (mo.)	1.25	1.00
Pictorial Review (m'thly)	2.50	2.00
Reliable Poul. J'nal (mo.)	1.50	1.15
Review of Reviews (mo.)	4.00	3.00
Swine World (monthly)	2.00	1.35
Woman's Home Companion	2.50	2.00
World (Thrice-a-week)	2.00	1.15

The Ladies Home Journal or the Saturday Evening Post may be added to any club for \$1.50 additional.

Send your order now. Address—

**THE COMMONER**

LINCOLN

NEB.