

# THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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## EFFICIENCY IN AMERICA

Germany efficiency has been held up as a degree of excellence unattainable by a Democracy. The accomplishments of the United States since April 5th last refute the truth of the claim. In the short space of time since that day the United States has accomplished the following:

- Declared a state of war as existing between this country and Germany;
- Seized 91 German ships and begun repair work on them;
- Authorized unanimously a war fund of \$7,000,000,000;
- Appropriated \$600,000,000 for merchant shipping and as much for air fleets;
- Agreed to loan our Allies \$3,000,000,000 and advanced them a large proportion of that sum;
- Passed a selective draft law and in a single day registered nearly ten million men for military service;
- Enlisted 600,000 volunteer soldiers in the Regular Army and in the National Guard of the States;
- Sent a commission to Russia to aid Democracy there and a body of railroad men to Russia and another to France to advise and assist in railroad transportation in these countries;
- Begun the construction of 32 camps for our soldiers;
- Sent to England a fleet of destroyers and to France a detachment of troops;
- Authorized and now enforcing embargo whereby our enemies will receive no more food or material from us;
- Passed a food conservation law;
- Organized many voluntary commissions and boards who are aiding the Government and the people in the speeding up of work, conservation of food, and other national movements;
- Drafted by lot 687,000 men for military service;
- While the Government was accomplishing these things the American people have loaned the United States \$2,000,000,000 and offered \$1,000,000,000 more, over four million citizens subscribing to the loan;
- In addition they have given over \$100,000,000 to the American Red Cross and \$3,000,000 to the Young Men's Christian Association;
- All these things were accomplished while our soil was not invaded or even threatened with invasion and without any disturbance of business conditions. All was done with the calm determination and judgment of an earnest, patriotic people performing a service for civilization and mankind and maintaining the rights, the dignity, and the honor of the greatest nation in the world.

The German leaders derided America's entry into the war as a bluff. This is our answer.

The German Imperial Government was nearly fifty years in perfecting its military efficiency. In less than four months the American Republic has made such strides as to indicate that in less than two years' time the boasted superiority of German efficiency will have been discredited. There is such a thing as American efficiency, and time will prove that German efficiency can not withstand it, fighting as it is for liberty, justice, and humanity.

## A GREAT MISTAKE

The reflecting American will be sorry to learn that no names of States will remain attached to the National Guard now taken into the Federal service and that none will appear in the designations of regiments formed out of the selective draft. In this ruling may be seen the influence of regular army officers, but the civilians of the War Department ought to appreciate the value of State pride and rivalry in war. Our early confederation of independent States has long been welded into a nation and we are long past the era when State pride took precedence to national, but the very foundations of our governmental system still rest upon the separate existence of our numerous commonwealths, each within its own distinct boundaries, each known by its name, and each within certain limitations free to govern itself. And each of these separate States has a just right to the fame of the achievements of its sons in war.

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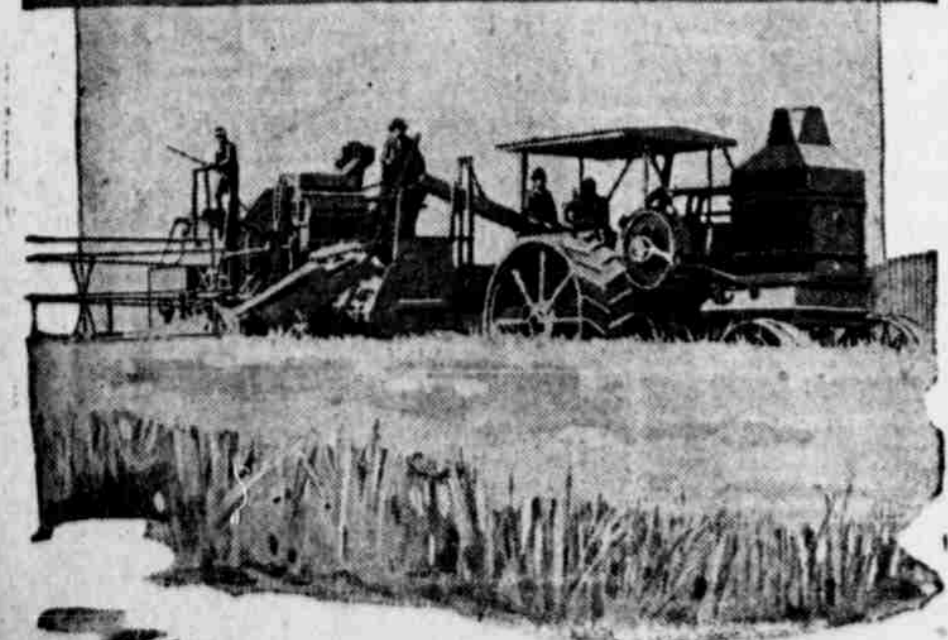
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The value of the stimulation of such rivalry and the right of local proprietorship are recognized even in England, a country far more consolidated than ours and with much less reasons for local designations in its military. Yet there are British regiments carrying the names of the mother counties of Sussex, Lancashire and the rest. We are all Americans first, but we are also New Yorkers, Georgians, Kansans, etc., and something is lost that is ours of right and that is of distinct value when the sons of any State are submerged in mere numbers, going to war only as the fiftieth artillery or the two hundredth infantry. The picture is blurred and the inspiration is impaired. This new ruling is contrary to both American and British precedent, it is not a gain but a loss, and it ought to be reconsidered even at the eleventh hour.

## SUBMARINE LOSSES

Everybody was frightened when a correspondent recently cabled from London that German submarines were destroying 1,600,000 tons of allied shipping a month, a rate of destruction with which the shipbuilding of all the allies can not keep pace. It was difficult to reconcile the sinking of 9,600,000 tons in six months with England's published figures of increased imports during the half year, but there was a great scare until it was learned that there had been a cable error adding a million to the correspondent's figures. But even the destruction of 600,000 tons a month is a very grave matter, involving threatening possibilities unless our plans, delayed by dissension in the Shipping Board, are carried through with the greatest possible speed.

The scare was wholesome and should have good results, one of which ought to be an accurate statement of the British Admiralty not only of the number of ships destroyed but of the amount of tonnage. Without the latter there can be no real understanding of the damage and neither in this country nor in England can the public be properly informed. The complete record is of the greatest importance to us not only because of the need of conveying food to England, our most important ally but because we should know precisely the amount of risk involved in transporting our soldiers to France. In proportion as the danger is known the effort to meet it will be the more complete. The British authorities have pursued a misguided course in this matter.

## THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Under the regulations of the selective draft registered men will be physically examined when they report to the local boards and only those who pass this examination will be enrolled for the army. But the first examination must be followed by a second after an interval of training in the rendezvous camps, and it is estimated that the second physical examination will disqualify fully one-fourth of the enrolled, who will then return to their homes perhaps to find their jobs no longer open to them. Manifestly this is undesirable hardship. In consequence it is urged that the first physical examination should be final and complete and to make this possible it is recommended that the government utilize the insurance companies' skilled and efficient force of medical inspectors.

We have all heard of men returning from the officers' training camps after a period of drill, being rejected by the second examination though accepted by the first, and the same story will be told on a much larger scale in the case of the drafted men. Obviously a final examination at the outset is desirable, but can a first examination be complete? No doubt all experienced army men will give only one answer, and that a negative. Apparently a period of hard training is necessary in order to test the novice soldier's powers of endurance and to reveal defects which at the outset are invisible even to an expert medical eye.

## RUSSIA ON HER FEET

Russia's resumption of vigorous warfare may be accepted as proof that the reports of the internal dissension and confusion following the revolution were exaggerated, and there is plentiful confirmation in the account of Charles Edward Russell of the American mission to Russia, a trained observer who says: "There is no anarchy here. There is only a limited amount of disorder. The people of Russia under the most trying conditions have given an example of dignity and restraint. Every phase of the present situation is a logical and normal outcome of natural causes. The substance is sound and hopeful if only other democracies give help wholeheartedly instead of standing by to prophesy destruction."

The exaggeration was due to German agents in Russia with the obvious purpose of discouraging both the wiser Russian leaders and their friends in the countries of the allies, hoping thus to prevent or delay remedial action while laboring to forward German interests through permanently disturbed conditions. German agents in the United States also are said to have done their best to manipulate facts and false reports of their own making in a way to give the impression that the situation in Russia was hopeless. But this effort in the Kaiser's interests has failed. The new Russian republic is on its feet and is moving steadily toward its goal in spite of inevitable obstacles and manufactured hindrances.

## GOOD TIMES IN THE CAMPS

The announced plans of the commission on training camp activities are rather startling, conveying the impression that if our soldier boys take advantage of all the amusements and interests provided for them they will have little or no time for military training. We read that each camp will have "a monster theatre" and that Broadway attractions will tour them on a regular circuit that each camp will witness the wrestling and boxing matches of champions, and even billiard exhibitions in the billiard halls provided; that each camp will have a huge Y. M. C. A., building and a twin hall for the Knights of Columbus; that there will be branch libraries, that the government will install college professors to teach French, Italian and other languages, and that intensive courses will be taught in any trade desired.

It would appear that the training camps are expected to remain in existence many years—let us hope not!—and that the main object is to provide amusement for our soldiers while they are receiving a liberal education. Yet it has been naturally supposed that the camps would be the scene of military training pushed day and night to the limit of the recruit's physical and mental endurance. Of course it is desirable to have proper provision for the health, recreation and education of the troops during hours that can not be devoted to the all-absorbing business of rapid and thorough training in the science of war, but some of these ambitious plans seem to ignore reason as well as expense. Certainly the boys in Khaki will not be able to complain of the lack of a good time.

## MINISTERS' SONS

The popular impression that there are more "black sheep" among ministers' sons than among the sons of the average man is greatly modified, if not entirely disposed of, by Rev. Dr. Macartney of Philadelphia in a published essay dedicated "to Woodrow Wilson, son of a Presbyterian clergyman, spokesman for the soul of America." The popular impression is an old one, going back at least as far as Thomas Fuller (1608-1661), the English historian and divine who noted that "there goeth forth a common report, no less uncharitable than untrue, as if clergymen's sons were generally unfortunate, like the sons of Eli, dissolute in their lives and doleful in their deaths," and who explained that it was merely because clergymen's sons were "more observed" than others. Supporting a similar view, Dr. Macartney shows from biographical dictionaries that a larger ratio of the sons of ministers than of other men attain to worthy distinction and eminent usefulness.

This popular impression of insufficient basis has other causes than the unusual inevitably attracted to the fall of a minister's son. One of these is that members of ministers' families, wearying of the persistent religious atmosphere of the home circle, sometimes affect a more worldly manner than would otherwise be cultivated. Another cause is to be found in the industry of the scandalmonger who, in order to excuse his own evil, exaggerates the amount of depravity appearing from time to time in the families of professional religious teachers.

## NEEDLESS JOY-RIDING

This country is consuming crude petroleum at the rate of 335,000,000 barrels a year, and, as the annual product is now only 300,000,000 barrels, the reserve surplus is being exhausted. Production must increase or consumption must decrease. As the possibility of the former is regarded as doubtful, the latter appears to be a necessity. Therefore the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense, realizing the need of conservation, has issued the following warning: "Pleasure riding should be curtailed. People should look upon their automobiles as necessities to be used only when needed. Not a gallon of gasoline should be used in the present emergency except for useful end."

Many thousands of Americans, in response to Mr. Hoover's appeal, are now using less wheat flour than formerly. This is a harder task than the cutting down of the consumption of gasoline by curtailing mere pleasure riding, for all over the country pleasure riding is done to excess. All necessary uses of the automobile could continue, even regular family pleasure outing might not be interrupted, and still the consumption of gasoline could be greatly cut down if excessive and needless joy-riding could be checked. There are thousands of car owners who are unwilling to stretch their legs in order to do an errand two or three squares away. There are hundreds of thousands of young folk who joy-ride the whole evening throughout the open season. They may be seen dashing ceaselessly around in every town of this country, and the observer often wonders when their prodigious appetite will be appeased. A vast saving could be accomplished without hardship to any one, and even with benefit as a result of variation in amusement, if the victim of immoderate joy-riding could be induced to heed the appeal.

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