

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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The Liberty Bonds

It takes money as well as men to carry on a war. The men have been registered—some ten millions of them—and the government will make the selection according to the law providing for selective conscription.

The money will be raised, first by taxation and, second, by bond issues. Congress is now working on a revenue bill which will raise as much as the legislators think it wise to raise in this way — and the taxpayers will respond with the money.

The government has also authorized bonds to the extent of seven billions, and two billions have been put upon the market. There ought to be no difficulty in securing the amount. It is the duty of the people to subscribe—especially the duty of those too old to enlist. It is also a good investment. $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is more than the average paid on savings bank deposits, and the rate will be raised to any higher rate that is hereafter paid on government bonds.

Don't be afraid of the security. When U. S. bonds are not good there will be nothing else worth investing in. If the world goes into bankruptcy the U. S. will be the last to make an assignment.

Buy a bond.

W. J. BRYAN.

"GARDEN GOLF"

The agitation for more garden stuff has led some genius to invent a new phrase, "Garden Golf." The cartoon illustrating it represents the man with a hoe, while the happy housewife encourages the game by following, caddy-like, with an armful of other garden tools. The ice chest is the nineteenth hole, and the success of the game is measured by the number of potatoes driven home. The American sense of humor will extract some fun from every situation, no matter how serious it is.

THE VALUE OF SAVING

If the country can be persuaded to save the \$700,000,000 worth of food which, according to agricultural department estimates, is wasted each year, the experience will be useful after the war. We have been so rich that we have not felt the need of being careful, but with the burdens which we assume in entering the world war we shall be compelled to exercise more economy.

BUY A BOND

Buying a bond is the easiest and most profitable form of patriotism. If the mother sends a son to the front he may not come back; if the father pays an increased amount in taxes it is gone for good; but money LOANED to the government returns, bringing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest with it. Buy a bond.

GUARDING ARMY'S MORALS

On another page will be found an appeal made by Secretary of War Baker to the governors of all the states, calling for co-operation in keeping the army camps free from improper surroundings and immoral influences.

It is a wise move. It is just as necessary to guard the moral welfare of the soldiers as it is to feed their bodies, and we are fortunate in having at the head of the war department a man like Secretary Baker who appreciates the fact and who has the courage to take the steps necessary to protect the soldiers from those who seek to make money by the ruin of men.

The new army law makes it a penal offense for any one to sell liquor to a man in uniform, and the secretary is to be commended for his determination to shield the soldiers from those who conspire against the morals in other ways.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE PRESIDENT VINDICATED

If the President needed anything to vindicate his action in refusing to accept Colonel Roosevelt's offer to lead a division to France, the Colonel furnished the vindication when he gave out his criticism of the President's decision. The President is lucky as well as wise and courageous.

THE RED CROSS

Subscribe for the Red Cross fund and thus make as comfortable as possible the lot of sick and wounded soldiers. This much is due from those at home to those of whom the government requires the sacrifices demanded of the soldier.

TEN MILLION IN A DAY

Well, registration day passed off without a hitch. Who said there would be trouble? It was more than "a million in a day." All the President had to do was to fix the day, and the line stretched through all the states.

Food Catechism

Why do we need more food?

To feed Americans, citizens and soldiers, and for export to those who are making this fight with us.

How can we increase the food supply?

1st.—By greater efficiency among producers, to be secured by better organization and more complete co-operation.

2nd.—By bringing into the ranks new food producers—especially the children. We now have 300,000 boys and girls in corn clubs, poultry clubs, pig clubs, canning clubs, etc., but we should have 10,000,000, or more than thirty times as many. Even more valuable than the food they would produce would be the value of the effort to them. It would be a lesson in practical patriotism and would give to each boy and girl the proud consciousness of helping the country in its hour of need.

4th.—We can add to the food supply by saving the \$700,000,000 worth of food that we now waste—almost equivalent to a wheat crop—not to speak of the \$145,000,000 worth of grain converted into alcohol.

The food propoganda, stated in a } word, means:

1.—Produce more food.

2.—Economize in the use of food.

This is a kind of patriotism that everyone can display.

PRODUCE MORE.

WASTE LESS.

W. J. BRYAN.

WHAT DOES RUSSIA MEAN?

What does Russia mean by reiterating so often her agreement with us in wanting a victory without indemnities or territory? Does she mean that, while asking nothing for herself, she will help other nations secure indemnities and territory, or does she mean she will not fight to help any nation secure indemnities and territory?

THE Y. M. C. A.

The soldier's spiritual nature needs nourishment as well as his body, and the Y. M. C. A. is the organization best fitted to give it. Support it liberally, and it will do its best to maintain in the army the moral standards of the home.

A SUGGESTION TO GRANDPAS

Why not buy a Liberty Bond for the grandchildren? It will give them a pleasant reminder of a grandparent's interest, and it will be a patriotic response to the country's call.

The kaiser has another guess coming if he counts on any help from Americans of German birth.

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