

German Americans

On another page will be found an editorial from the San Antonio Express on the attitude of German Americans. It is a deserved tribute to the loyalty of the great mass of those who, though born in the Fatherland and attached by ties of blood to those who follow the flag of the kaiser, are ready to give both their money and their sons to support freedom.

The test of their devotion to their adopted home has been the more severe because they are supporting not only the United States but our Allies, whom they were free to condemn before our nation entered the conflict.

They were quite naturally slow to believe that this war was a deliberate assault upon the world's peace and a menace to the democratic idea of government. Russia's withdrawal from the war, deplorable as it was, has served to expose the ambitious plans of the emperor and his military advisers. It completely refutes the plea that he made in the beginning when he indignantly denied that he began the war or wanted the war.

The German Americans now understand that they are fighting for freedom for their relatives in Germany as well as for liberty here when they bravely face the shells of the enemy on the western front. The hyphen has been melted in the fervent heat of war, and those who formerly used it are proving their loyalty to a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

BREWERY CONTROL

When Mr. Bryan first announced his determination to fight the liquor interests of Nebraska to a finish, in 1910, he gave as one reason that the brewers had secured a political control in his party that made it impossible for progressive democrats to enact the legislation they had pledged the people. The fact that a democratic governor and a democratic senate that owed their election to the endorsement received from the German-American alliance, the political organization of the brewers, prevented Nebraska sentiment in favor of prohibition from finding expression in ratification of the national prohibitory amendment, indicates that his premises were well taken and that his work is still unfinished.

WELCOME TO THE RECORD

On another page will be found an editorial from the Fort Worth Record, now under the control of W. H. Bagley, a brother-in-law of Secretary Daniels.

The Commoner extends a cordial welcome to The Record under its new management. There is room for a great, progressive democratic newspaper in northern Texas and Bagley, ably aided by Editor Fitzgerald, is capable of rendering a large service to the party. He appears on the scene at an opportune time, when Texas is breaking loose from the liquor interests and joining the prohibition states. Success to The Record.

W. J. BRYAN.

BOOST THE RED CROSS

The Red Cross drive begins on May 20th, and everybody should be prepared to go the limit in financing this organization. It not only takes care of the soldiers' comfort while they are in the ranks, but it cares for the boys when in the hospitals. It not only devotes its funds for the proper equipment of hospitals, but it uses them for the purpose of building up hope in the bosoms of the Belgians and French made homeless by the great German thrusts. Your money won't be wasted in the hands of the Red Cross. It will be too busy working even to talk.

GOING AFTER THE PROFITEERS

"Washington, May 3—Profiteering contractors who defraud the government in the production of war materials would be severely dealt with under a bill ordered favorably reported by the house judiciary committee. A fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for ten years is provided."

The above dispatch indicates that the government is going after the profiteers. Good! They have been spared too long. At a time like this when soldiers are GIVING their lives, and citizens their money, no one should be allowed to TAKE more than a fair profit.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE ANGELUS OF STRIFE

[By F. Woodruff.]

There's a little town about 60 miles south of Birmingham, on the Louisville & Nashville, called Verbena.

The town is well named.

It is redolent of the old-fashioned southern flower. It is peopled by simple farmer folk. Some substantial citizens of Montgomery keep summer homes there.

There are few sounds about the place. An occasional mule team rattles down a red-clay road drawing an empty wagon to the general stores, or bumps pleasantly back toward the Chilton county hills. Occasionally a gentle wind causes the leaves of the oak trees that shade the town to sigh one of those sighs of content that men breathe after a good meal or a good sermon, or a well-rendered piece of music.

It's as peaceful a place as can be found in Alabama or any other place. It might well have been modeled after Goldsmith's "Sweet Auburn."

But there's a new sound there now. It is the Angelus of Strife.

It calls the people of Verbena not only to worship but to deeds.

Every afternoon at 6 o'clock the bell of the Verbena church rings. It continues to ring for two minutes, and while its brazen song is lifted the people of Verbena stand and pray.

With heads uncovered and bowed, each man, each woman, each child, each saint, and each sinner repeat these words:

"God bless our President, our soldiers, and the nation, and guide them on to victory."

When the sound begins, the observance of its call is universal. Men halt in the street; wagons are pulled up on the road; women rise from their knitting or pause in their cookery—for they have early suppers in Verbena—the plowman halts his work, and each repeats the prayer.

Verbena calls it "The Prayer of the Bell," and it is said that men who have never been known to pray before answer its call dutifully.—From a Birmingham, Ala. paper.

THE REAL PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW

Did you ever in your youth see a Punch and Judy show? It is an amusing sight—the two wooden figures quarreling and fighting at the top of a screen, but one loses interest when he learns that it is the same voice that speaks through both.

The liquor interests are today carrying on a Punch and Judy show on a large scale. They have one group of politicians shouting, "Don't disturb interstate commerce"—that was the argument used against the Webb-Kenyon law that enlarged the power of the state to deal with the saloon—while another group of politicians greet the national prohibition amendment with the protest, "You are invading the rights of the states."

It is the same voice that speaks through both groups—the voice of the brewery. But if the friends of the amendment will only stand guard a few months longer and secure twenty-five dry legislatures, the "shouting and tumult" will cease—the voice will be gone.

W. J. BRYAN.

POLITICAL CAMOUFLAGE

A democratic governor in Nebraska refused to submit the ratification of the national prohibitory amendment to the legislature on the ground that the democratic state senate would vote it down. Later the democratic state senate refused to consider the ratification question because it said the governor had not included it in the call. This was a bit of camouflage that deceived no one, and puts up to the democratic voters of Nebraska a very distinct and emphatic duty at the coming primary and election.

The Issue in Nebraska

There is one very important local issue in Nebraska this year—namely, ratification of the prohibition amendment. A wet democratic governor and a wet democratic majority in the state senate have brought humiliation upon the party and the state. They denied to Nebraska the privilege of being state number 12 on the Roll of Honor. The disgrace must be wiped out.

The democrats have a chance to do their part at the coming primary. A friend of ratification should be brought out for every office from the governor down, so that the democratic voters will have a chance to put themselves on record in favor of prohibition in state and nation. Now is the time for young men who have the courage of their convictions. If the older men are afraid, let the young men dare to test the sentiment of their party. The democratic party in Nebraska has been terrorized by the liquor interests, but the grip of the brewery has been broken—the party is free. No time is to be lost. Announcements should be made at once, and the campaign should be begun to restore the party to public confidence.

W. J. BRYAN.

SEVENTEEN MILLION PURCHASERS

The cheering news comes from Washington that the purchasers of the third Liberty loan number seventeen million as against five million purchasers of the first loan and ten millions of the second. This is most gratifying. Nothing is more sure to impress the kaiser with the hopelessness of his cause than to know that ALL the American people stand behind the government and are ready to furnish the money necessary to win the war.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Patriotism is love of country defined in terms of national service.

No one can have too much education if he uses it to help society; but even a little education is more than enough if it separates one in sympathy from his fellow men.

It takes many books to train the mind but one book, the Bible, is sufficient to train the heart, and the heart controls the mind.

Eloquence is the art of telling what you know in such a way that people will believe that you mean what you say.

SIGN THE PLEDGE

God did not make alcohol necessary to body, mind or soul; on the contrary, it is a poison and a menace to the physical, mental and moral man.

God never made a human being so strong that he could begin the use of intoxicants with certainty that he would not become a victim to the habit. Every drunkard has passed through a period of confidence when he boasted that he could drink when he wanted to and leave it alone when he wanted to, but has fallen.

The only safety lies in total abstinence. The pledge is both a source of strength to those who sign it, and an example to others.

W. J. BRYAN.

A FOOLISH FORECAST

A crepe hanger who writes for Life, one of our favorite journals, draws a melancholy picture of the club of the future, in which opium smoking, hasheesh, morphine and other violent varieties of dope have taken the place of wine bibbling and beer guzzling, now common in many clubs in regions where personal liberty continues triumphant. All these dire things to befall, of course, because prohibition is spreading itself across the continent. A fool forecast, of course, and unlikely to cause alarm among well-balanced people. Since the law is more severe against drug fiends than it is against the alcoholic artists, a club given over to such hilarity would stand a fat chance. It is true that prohibition is a bit hard on many clubs, resulting in many members spending their evenings at home occasionally, but the idea that it is going to encourage free and unlimited traffic in deadly narcotics is too silly to scare anybody.—Oklahoma City Times.