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Morning—Evening—Sunday.

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AUGUST 1, 1919.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUED.

Private subscriptions to the sum of \$2,000,000 have been pledged in the state of Connecticut to continue in time of peace the Camp Community Service which was such a tremendous factor in preserving the happiness and morals of American soldiers during the war.

The work no longer will be confined to camps, but will be carried on more generally, wherever conditions seem to indicate that it is needed.

The lines followed in the Camp Community Service will be the basis of this greater undertaking, but they will be broadened and added to, the idea being to give anybody who needs them such opportunities for study and healthful entertainment as were provided for the soldiers.

Educational courses covering everything from art to agriculture will be conducted. Social entertainments and athletics will play a large part in the scheme.

"Give men and women something to do that they like to do, make them feel that they belong, and are needed, and you will not need to hire secret service men to find out what they are doing, nor soldiers to shoot down their red flags," says one backer of the scheme.

It is hoped by friends of the War Camp Community Service, that the movement begun in Connecticut may spread throughout the country. Undoubtedly it will, meeting with the same generous support everywhere. For the value of properly conducted work and play, made easily accessible, became apparent to every thoughtful person who watched its influence upon the men in our camps, and there should be a very general feeling that the practical knowledge gained in community service during the war is too valuable a thing to be lost.

A VEGETABLE SHORTAGE.

City folk everywhere have wondered this year at the high cost of vegetables. The phenomenon has not seemed fully explained by the general causes known to be operating to raise price-levels. Dollars may be "cheaper," and dealers may have new, extortionate standards of profit but still, why should fresh vegetables, seasonable and home-grown, cost so much?

One fact which may help to explain the situation is given by a county agricultural agent. He comments on the unprecedented difficulty of getting skilled laborers for farming and gardening. Where men are obtainable at all, he says, they are mostly inexperienced, because the best farm-hands have gone into the city factories.

The result is that many farmers who formerly did considerable truck-gardening have been forced to abandon their gardens, and even to plow garden crops under, and turn their attention to grain and other crops which require less skilled help. The resulting shortage naturally sends vegetable prices up.

It would probably be found that this condition exists in nearly every community. And it is a condition which is likely to persist next year unless means can be found to provide proper man-power for the truck-gardens.

AGAIN! THE POLICE PROBE AND THE CHIEF'S OATHS.

Well, tonight is the night when Patrolman Bert Miller is to learn from the board of public safety, whether he is guilty, or not guilty; is to be made the "goat" for the disappearance of all that liquor from the city hall, which Chief Kline in his petitions to the superior, circuit and appellate courts, to save his "American pride" from being taken away, swore had never been touched. It was queer enough that right on the heels of such strenuous efforts to keep that liquor, the board of safety should turn the whole thing face about, giving the chief the lie, asserting that liquor had disappeared, and determine to make someone, whether the right one or not, suffer for the disappearance.

Hence the charges against Patrolman Miller, and hence the farcical hearing given him last Friday night, the testimony being taken under advisement until tonight. What that "advisement" means nobody knows, but it is a safe bet that the board will not find it "advisable" to turn the patrolman loose. The hearing was too well staged for whitewashing purposes, to conclude otherwise. No wonder the administration organ—or ex-administration organ—disgusted with the affair concludes:

"Inquiry into the disappearance of liquor from the liquor storage room in the city hall and into the discovery of a whisky-sealed pump in the locker of Patrolman Bert Miller has not done satisfactory conclusions, nor does it reflect great credit upon the police department. It is evident conditions are not what they should be in a properly organized police department. We believe the board of public safety is aware of this fact even more than citizens who endeavor to keep in touch with the work of the police and their governing factors."

The investigation now in progress should bring to light some of the irregularities of the

police station if every policeman in the department has to be placed on the stand. The board of safety has the power to call these men and others, if necessary, and it should do its duty to the letter. Patrolman Miller knows or does not know all about the pump and how and when it was made and by whom. If he knows he owes it to the public from which he draws his salary to clarify the atmosphere and to assist in making the police department what it ought to be. If he is actually innocent he should be able to present facts that will be more convincing than any statements that have yet become public.

The present investigation should be the initial effort of the board of safety in a general cleaning out of the police department. The board ought to rid itself of every man in the department who does not measure up to the high requirements of complete efficiency. When a citizen can quietly enter the automobile room of the police station and drive out the city's automobiles, as has been done, it is time the board made a strong and successful drive for efficiency and discipline. If it is true confiscated liquor disappears from the storage room it is time for a cleaning out of the thieves who take this liquor. The entire situation is too serious for the board to pass by with the semblance of an investigation or with an investigation that will accomplish nothing."

Which is all very good doctrine, including even some things that we have had in mind, as for instance ascertaining where the liquor went to that Chief Kline himself took from the station—of course, if any; took in a basket. The board might probe the disappearance of a looking glass, as well as the disappearance of booze, and ascertain, if possible, whose wagon it is that has now and then been making the rounds of certain patrolmen's homes and delivering them supplies from the municipal "bull pen."

The only thing is that we are afraid that if the board gets too "rambunctuous" in pursuing the clean-up that our contemporary suggests, there will be no police department left, and mayhap, no board of safety either—but still the main question?

Why all this humbug about the disappearance of liquor, and the turning of it into water, etc., when Chief Kline has thrice made oath to the courts, that all these charges are untrue. Does the board of safety also doubt his word; does the mayor? Do they know better. Of course, we suppose the chief acted, as the lawyers would say, "advisedly;" probably for the protection of someone—and now when it comes time to "cough up" and they haven't got it to "cough," why to be sure, it was Miller or they don't know who did it, and, mayhap, they didn't find out until afterward.

"Safe place for liquor?" Oh, yes. More injunctions, and more wits of prohibition—to prohibit prohibition,—please!

The coal operators want people to buy more coal, and say they're going to raise the price. Which is not a very good way to get people to buy more.

It was just like Count von Bernstorff to deal an underhand blow at the League of Nations by announcing that he's for it.

It looks as if the next crop of millionaires will grow out of the candy, ice-cream and soft drink industries.

Other Editors Than Ours

A LODGE IN A WILDERNESS.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

One of the most recent of the many moves which Sen. Lodge has made in his diligent work of obstructing the ratification of the peace treaty is to enter into correspondence with officials of the British government, i.e. has taken occasion to spread information of his action and to cite in support of some of his own professions in the matter some of the British views which he says he ascertained through his correspondence.

It would be interesting if with this information he would impart additional information explaining in just what function he conducted that correspondence. Otherwise there might be some who would find it difficult to understand why this section of the revised statutes of the United States does not apply to his case:

"Every citizen of the United States, whether actually resident or abiding within the same, or in any foreign country, who, without the permission or authority of the government, directly or indirectly, commences or carries on any verbal or written correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government, or any officer or agent thereof, with an intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government, or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes, or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the government of the United States" shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, and by imprisonment during a term not less than six months, nor more than three years."

Sen. Lodge does not say he entered into this correspondence with "the authority of the government directly or indirectly." No doubt he would spurn such authority even were it tendered him; and as it has been announced at the white house that the government knows nothing whatever of the matter it is pretty clear that the government has had no thought of tendering him the authority.

Mr. Lodge's action is all the more mystifying because he has recently disclosed some peculiar views of the relations of a United States senator to the chief executive. He has expressly declined an invitation by the president to discuss with him the peace treaty on the ground that senators individually should engage in such discussions with the president and that anything that that functionary may care to say on the subject should be said to the senate as a whole. It is true that Mr. Lodge must have held different views last February when he accepted a similar invitation to the white house to discuss with the president the covenant of the League of Nations; but five months have passed since February and Mr. Lodge has very conclusively demonstrated that he can change his views several times in a shorter period, than five months. It is only fair, therefore, to assume that the set of views announced a few days ago are his views until he publicly announces their substitution by another set.

It is apparent, then, that he has carried on this correspondence with officials of the British government without the authorization of our government and certainly not as the United States senate as a whole, but simply as Henry Cabot Lodge as an individual, at most as an individual United States senator. It does not seem, in the circumstances, that it would require much of a lawyer to make a case against him.

Still it is not likely that Mr. Lodge will be prosecuted under the statute quoted. It is not at all desirable that he should be. Mr. Lodge is doing a notable service in exposing from many angles the animus of most of the senatorial opposition to the League of Nations. Most certainly the democrats would have to see Mr. Lodge haled off to prison. He can be of most value to them right where he is, as leader of their opponents in the senate. They would go on his ball for any amount rather than suffer deprivation of his resourceful and tireless activities by dungeon walls.

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More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

ICHABOD.

(Which means, "Thy Glory Had Departed")
The dollar is now worth fifty cents.—A Banking Expert.How dear to my heart is the mem'ry that lingers
Of the days that—alas!—we shall never see
more.
When clutching a large silver coin in my fingers,
I hurried along to the grocery store.And there purchased flour and bacon and coffee
And prunes in a package and apricots canned,
Two gallons of coal oil, a half pound of coffee,
And still held some change, when I left, in my hand.The big iron dollar,
The good honest dollar
The hundred-cent dollar
I clutched in my hand.But now, though accustomed to buying far closer,
Whenever in markets or stores I appear,
To lay in provisions, the butcher or grocer,
Will glance at my dollar and quietly sneer.At the tail of a line of more affluent buyers
Awaiting my turn I must patiently stand,
For no one, as far as I gather, desires
The pitiful dollar I hold in my hand—The poor little dollar,
The cheap little dollar,
The fifty-cent dollar
I hold in my hand!

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