

WILMETTE LIFE

PUBLISHED THURSDAYS BY

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CHICAGO SUBURBAN QUALITY GROUP
Chicago Offices — 1016-1018 WILLOUGHBY TOWER
Telephone CENTRAL 3355

SUBSCRIPTION: \$2 PER YEAR SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS

All communications and contributions intended for publication must bear the name and address of the author, not necessarily for publication, but for our files. Such material must reach the editor by Tuesday noon to be in time for the current issue.

CONGRATULATIONS

It must be a source of much gratification to the many public-spirited citizens of New Trier township who have so arduously striven to bring about non-partisan election of local officials, to note that in the April elections so far held the candidates so chosen have been practically unopposed. In the township election itself, and in the Village elections of Winnetka and Glencoe, all held on Tuesday, the principle of "let the office seek the man" has resulted in the choice of officials with outstanding qualifications for public service.

That the principle has not called out a larger number of voters is to be regretted. It may be due to a lack of appreciation of the tremendous amount of work undertaken by a considerable number of villagers to bring about so desirable a situation. It is never an easy task and seldom appraised at its true value. Why, then, should not villagers go to the polls and vote to sustain the principle of no politics in local governments, even though the old, outmoded, vituperative campaign is conspicuous by its absence? Why not go to the slight trouble of voting and thus express your appreciation of what your fellow citizens are doing to give you the best of officials and the best of government? It is a small thing to do, and means so much.

In the school elections of April 10, and the Kenilworth and Wilmette Village elections of April 20, opportunities are afforded for this worthwhile cooperation. Do not neglect them.

"TWENTY YEARS AFTER"

"No one has a greater passion for peace than myself... But until the world agrees to disarm, and shows signs of abiding by that agreement, let the United States of America be so strong that she WILL have peace."

Tuesday was observed the 20th anniversary of the declaration of war by the United States congress which plunged this peace-loving nation into the greatest and most devastating war of all time. Looking back upon that day, it seems almost unbelievable that when the expected declaration was made it found the country absolutely unprepared for the tremendous task confronting it. But such was the case, and to this day no one has correctly computed the loss in life and treasure chargeable to that lack of preparation.

In the April number of the American Legion Monthly, Col. E. M. House, who had greater influence than any person outside of officialdom in determining the policies of war, makes an inspiring plea to America to not again be caught in such a sorry plight. One of his most succinct statements appears as an introduction to this editorial.

Col. House points out that in 1914, when the World war broke out, public sentiment in the United States was opposed to a large army and navy, and that today the sentiment is not much different. And that means that when the explosion for which the powder trenches are already laid in Europe comes, as come it certainly will, America will be in the same position in which it

found itself in 1917—earnestly striving to keep out of war but being inevitably forced into it while unprepared to even resist invasion, let alone prosecute an offensive on foreign soil. "Those of us who believe in a large army and navy," Col. House continued, "so long as other nations have them, see clearly that this is the only sure way to keep us free from foreign disputes that do not concern us. No man wanted peace more sincerely, or worked harder not to become involved in the World war, than President Wilson, but the contempt that the powerfully armed nations of Europe had for us made it impossible for us to keep out and maintain our self-respect. Do we intend to permit a similar situation to arise again?"

Many competent observers, comparing the international situation of today with that of 1914, assert that conditions are much more threatening now than then. They also, with the experience of twenty years ago as a guide, have less of faith that America can maintain a position of neutrality and avoid being drawn into any European conflict. The World war blasted the idea that this country is a country apart from all others, and need not engage in any war but one of invasion. The need is to be ready—and hope that war does not come.

In concluding his article Col. House paid high tribute to the American Legion in these words: "... Frequently I visited the battle front in Belgium and France. Therefore I understood better than many the dangers and hardships to which our soldiers were exposed. I witnessed their unflinching courage and shall always be proud of the demonstration they gave to the entire world as to what our people dared to do. Therefore my hat is off to The American Legion along with my heartiest congratulations on this twentieth anniversary of our entry into the war. May it live long and prosper."

WHAT WAY TO PEACE?

Can we, as individuals, do anything to avert war? Admiral Richard E. Byrd believes that we can, and in the Rotarian magazine enumerates several steps that can be taken by all individuals desiring to maintain peaceful relations between nations.

"The first step," urges the famous Arctic explorer, who on his last trip to the South pole resolved to devote most of the remainder of his life to efforts for peace, "is to inform ourselves and our children as to what is involved in the choices to be made."

"Take just one of the questions of peace: disarmament. How much does the man in the street know about it? The point is that disarmament is not as simple as it sounds. We need to inform ourselves about it, as we need to inform ourselves about all the problems of peace. To promote peace, we must know what peace means."

"A second step, perhaps, is to study war and violence as institutions, and to reach conclusions about them. Is violence effective? Is war an efficient method of settling disputes? Disregarding ethical considerations, bloodshed, ruined lives, biological consequences and the like, does war do the immediate job of settling international disputes?"

"We think in sober moments that we must avoid war at all costs; yet when the hour comes, in our excitement the greater imperative seems to be to save our country against what apparently threatens it. Perhaps we can fortify ourselves against this by calm logic before the war clouds arise. Perhaps we can convince ourselves, and then others, that war does not settle problems and difficulties."

"A third step individuals can take, perhaps," continues Admiral Byrd, "is to inform themselves as to what is really necessary for peace. Can nations live side by side in amity? We know, of course, that they can. The classic instance is Canada and the United States, two countries having the longest common frontier of any nations—without one mile of that frontier fortified—and not in a century and a quarter has there been war, or the serious threat of war. The countries of the Scandinavian peninsula, also, have not known war for more than a century."

"The final thing, of course, after having informed ourselves, is to take positive action toward the realization of our beliefs. Of the 'way,' I am not so sure—nor am I sure that any one way is the only way. I would not want to close my mind to any proposal honestly and competently made with the purpose of furthering peace. When peace comes, it will no doubt come through the meeting and agreement of many minds which among themselves possess diverse views on most subjects—and even on methods of attaining this objective."

NEWS-COMMENT

Came April. The nice, white, April shower proves it. But that robin out in the yard has a suspicious, skeptical glint in his eye. And looking just a bit chagrined, too, like a man who has just dropped a dime in a nickel slot machine.

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This is the week when Mexican women go to the polls. After years of struggle they have finally gained the right to vote. As yet nobody knows why they want to vote, but they think they do. All that remains now is for the men to figure out some way to make them feel like that on election day.

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We always like to read the Vox Pop column, and find out what everybody thinks about everything. But mostly we hate to see those letters from Mr. Disgusted—he's always complaining about something. We had a chance to meet this dour faced Vox Popper the other day, and find out what his troubles were all about. Well sir, he poured out the longest tale of woe we'd ever heard or thought of. It seems the paper boy had thrown his morning paper away back under the bushes, and then Mrs. Disgusted ran the vacuum cleaner before breakfast, and burned the toast, and a whole lot of other things that put Mr. Disgusted in a swell frame of mind. He was on his way to his office when we met him, and he just couldn't wait to get down there, so he could get another letter off to the Vox Pop. Ah well, life goes on, and even Mr. Disgusted will have to admit that.

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Even a criminal must get tired of the old humdrum life of holding up gas stations and passing bad checks. Somebody with a penchant for the unusual, went up to McHenry county and stole a 60-foot steel bridge which the county authorities had left beside the road. The thieves told a farmer who happened by that they had bought the bridge from the county. But the county commissioner says he didn't sell it. Maybe the police ought to be on the lookout for a city slicker who was just getting in practice for bigger and better things. They might find him even now hanging around Michigan avenue bridge looking for likely prospects.

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The Norwegian parliament has put its collective parliamentary foot in it. It has committed the unfortunate and heinous offense of presenting to baby Prince Harold on the day of his christening—of all things, a beer mug! Norway's W. C. T. U., or such members of the populace as would join if there were one, are up in arms. A beer mug indeed, for an innocent baby—and a princely baby at that! The question now is whether they can withdraw the gift without a protest from Germany. And so with international complications pending, baby Prince Harold goes on eating and sleeping, getting bathed and powdered every day like any other baby, and not much caring if he owns his own beer mug or not.

* * *

A monkey keeper over in Lincoln Park Zoo, whose duty it is to see that all the monkey shines take place on the inside of the cage, seems to have annoyed one of his small charges, the net result being a sore hand, and, we suppose, a satisfied monkey. He hasn't found out as yet the extent of his recklessness—the last monkey who tried that died. The keeper has now come to the conclusion that you can't trust a monkey. One wonders if that is the reason they keep them in cages.

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As M. Voltaire so rightly said, "Everything happens for the best in this best of all possible worlds." Even in this enlightened age, the satire of the Voltaire remark is not entirely lost.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER

