

THE PERIL OF THE MIDDLE WEST

By Hudson Maxim

The recent developments in the international situation, especially with respect to Germany and Mexico, have opened our eyes to the fact that an invading army would not, as has all along been popularly supposed, make the first attack either upon the Atlantic seaboard or upon the Pacific seaboard, but the attack would be made on the Gulf States, and the invasion would proceed up the fertile and defenseless Mississippi Valley, with the capture of St. Louis, Cincinnati, Chicago and Detroit, the home of Henry Ford. Even Nebraska, the baliwick of Beulahland-Bryan, would be badly bruised.

If Germany should smite us, with the co-operation of Mexico, the Mexican greasers would, by comparison, make the frightfulness of the Germans courteous demeanor.

Fate is peculiarly ironical on occasion, and on this occasion she is most exceptionally so. The pacifists of the middle west have all along supposed, with deep comfort in the supposition, that, come what may upon the Atlantic or the Pacific, they would be secure, with a thousand miles of distance and the Alleghanies on the one side, and the Rockies on the other side, with the vast reaches of country that lie between them and the Pacific.

It did not occur to them that an enemy would take us on the line of least resistance, but had they read history they would have learned that an army, just like any other natural agency, moves on the line of least

resistance, and that it is just as natural for an army, as it is for a river, to follow a valley.

Alexander the Great entered Asia, not by the paths over high mountains, but through valleys between them, and over low-lying plains. The Huns entered Europe by the lowlands south of the Ural Mountains and north of the Caspian Sea, and they waded their horses across the shallow waters of the Sea of Azof.

France has always been invaded by way of the Belgian lowlands.

Attila, the Scourge of God, with his terrible Huns, took this route. So important was this route from a military point of view that the Germans in the present war decided to take it in spite of treaty obligations to Belgium.

When Hannibal invaded Italy, it is true that he crossed the White Alps, but that was the only route that he could take, and was, consequently, the line of least resistance. Furthermore, it was the best route from a strategic point of view, for the Romans believed the mountains impassable for his army, and he was, therefore, able to spring a surprise on them for which they were not prepared. Napoleon also crossed the Alps to attack the Austrians at Marengo, but for him also it was the only route, and therefore the line of least resistance, and, furthermore, as in the case of Hannibal, he was thus able to attack the Austrians by surprise.

Should the United States be attacked by any of the great powers or a coalition of them, either with or without the support of Mexico, the attack would come upon the Gulf States bordering the Mississippi River.

This route is the most favorable for several reasons: There are no hills or mountains obstructing the way or which may be fortified to impede the advance of an invading army, and there is the ample, navigable, unguarded Mississippi.

Should Germany succeed in breaking through the Allied barrier, she would smite us hip and thigh. She would advance with an invading army up the Mississippi Valley from the Gulf to the Lakes, and we, in our present condition of unpreparedness, would be unable to offer such opposition as to make even a ripple in her advance, and she would carve the country in twain, and then the thickly populated east, without the food supply of the west, would be compelled immediately to surrender, and the west, without the munitions supply of the east, would likewise be compelled immediately to surrender.

When an invading army attacks this country, it is not going to strike us on the Atlantic seaboard and clamber over the Alleghanies in order to spring a surprise upon the middle west; neither will an invading army climb over the Rockies and pilgrimage the vast plains to strike the middle and eastern states.

If Germany attacks us, what she

will do is simply this: She will first destroy our fleet and then enter the Gulf of Mexico and take a pleasure excursion up the Mississippi Valley.

If our land defenses were strong, and if we had a large, well-trained and well-equipped army, and were able thereby to make it difficult for Germany to land and get a foot-hold in the country, she would, after destroying our fleet, capture Porto Rico, take Cuba, adopt Mexico, as bases for her operations against the United States. But in our present situation such preliminary measures would not be necessary. All that Germany would have to do would be to invade the country through the Mississippi Valley, and then demand any amount of ransom that might suit her fancy, and we should be glad to pay it.

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Ten New Outfits Will Go to France as Result of Driver Doyle's Work.

Ten new ambulances for the work of the American ambulance field service in France have been pledged as a result of the recent visit to Chicago and vicinity of Luke Doyle, returned from a two years' term of service on the European battlefields with this corps. Mr. Doyle spoke last week at Community house in Winnetka and also addressed the students at New Trier High school on the work of the American ambulance contingent in France.

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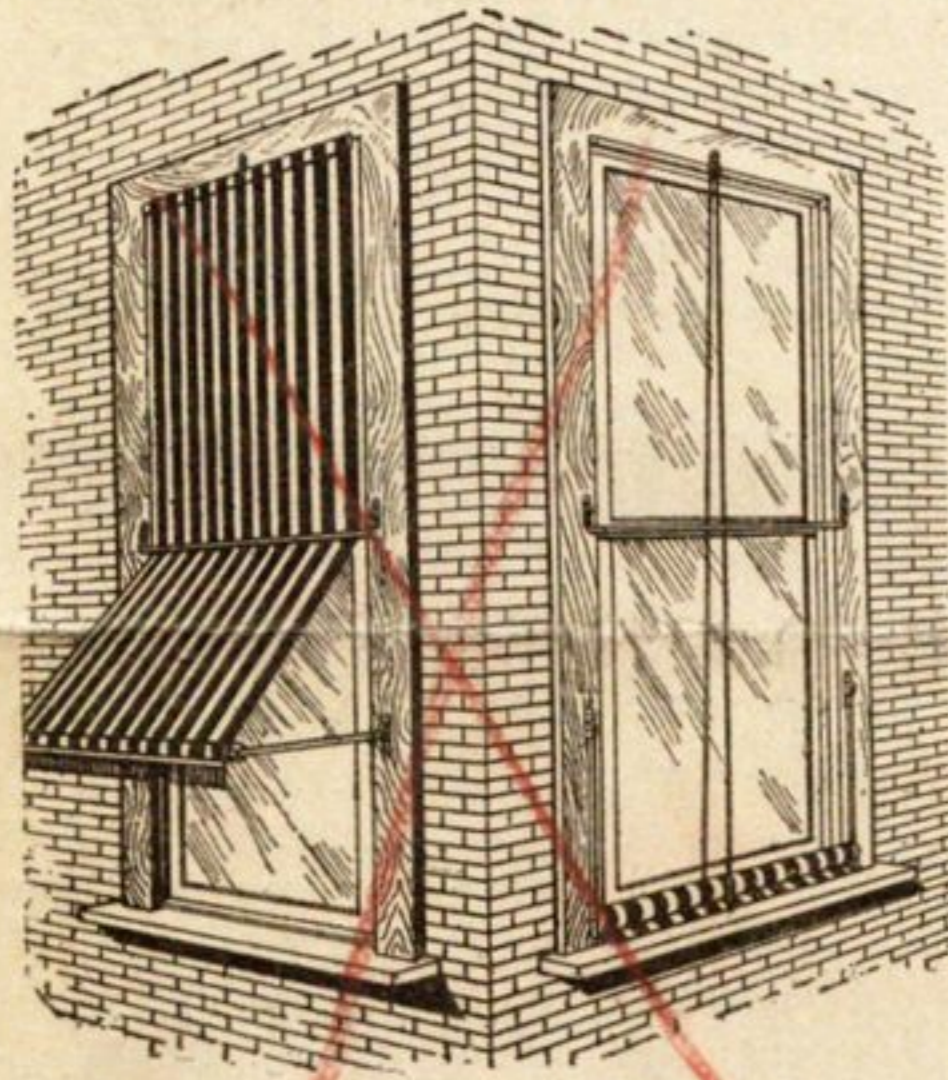
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CARLTON PROUTY

Is a candidate for JUSTICE OF THE PEACE at the Township election to be held April 3, 1917.

He is not opposing Mr. Northrop or Mr. Nelson, who are candidates for POLICE MAGISTRATES at the Winnetka Village election.

Judge Prouty is a member of the bar of the Illinois State Supreme Court, of the United States Circuit and District Courts, and of the United States Supreme Court, and is serving the last month of a four-year term as Police Magistrate of Winnetka.

During this term he has heard and decided 1559 cases of all kinds. Of the 750 cases instituted by the Winnetka Police, the Village Attorney, the Health Officer and other Village Officials, he has been selected by them to hear 606.

He has imposed, collected and turned into the Village Treasury fines to the amount of \$2053.00. He has convicted Blind Pig Keepers, backed up the Juvenile Protective Association, stood by the Probation Officer, protected unfortunate women, sent Bums to the Bridewell, Wife-Beaters to the rock-pile and Burglars to the Grand Jury.

He has enforced the Village Ordinances without fear or favor, has never dodged or shirked an official duty, however unpleasant; and has, through his Court, enforced law and order in Winnetka as it has not been enforced for ten years.

Therefore his friends, and others who have not heretofore been his friends, hereby appeal to voters who believe in courage, backbone and efficiency in a Public Official, to support Judge Prouty at the polls.

Township Election Tuesday April 3rd.

VOTE FOR

Daniel M. Mickey, Wilmette

For Justice of the Peace.

Joseph A. Sheppard, Wilmette For Constable

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Mr. H. H. Simmons, director of the United Coffee Growers Corporation, with his secretary, arrived in Winnetka at request of Lips & Cazal.

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