

# Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by  
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1917

## Improvements in the Postoffice.

Improvements in the postoffice equipment, to be followed by commensurate improvement in the service of the institution to the public, will be gladly welcomed in the city. For several years the public has been impatient of the quality of the service which has come out of the local postoffice and has borne with what equanimity and accepted with what indulgence could be summoned, the delay and various difficulties which often accompany the transmission of mail matter, because of the frequent claims of the inadequacy of the equipment and the insufficiency of help permitted by the government.

It is particularly gratifying now to know that these trying times are over and that the installation of the additions to the service will give to the city the enjoyment of first class service in the postoffice.

## The President at the Helm.

President Wilson is showing a determination to hold in his own hands the reins of government which exposes him to criticism from some quarters of desiring to exercise autocratic powers in a war which affects to be in the interests of democracy. Such criticism should not be dignified by consideration by thinking people. It is understood that there must be a directing head to any organization which hopes to achieve an object and war requires such an organization as is necessary for the carrying on of no other enterprise. There must be a guiding hand and a willing co-operation between all the parts of the machine of organization that there may be the utmost efficiency and perfect working of parts which brings success in the end.

So far in the management of the nation in its course towards military preparation the president has shown a comprehension of the conditions and the needs of the country and a disposition to use his power wisely which deserves and has won the confidence of the people. In nothing has he more demonstrated his conception of the duties of his high office than in his tendency to put in positions of responsibility men who have shown their power to fill them properly. Complaint because of the maintaining in cabinet positions of men who have not the entire confidence of the public is based upon a wrong conception of the principles which are guiding the president. This is a time for the de-

velopment of system and plans of action, not for the framing of policies of government or of military tactics. The men in the cabinet, even those who have in some measure earned the condemnation of the people of the United States, are not essential to the framing of the program which is being carried out with dispatch and efficiency. When the time comes which makes demands upon the heads of the departments of the government, demands beyond the power of the present holders of the several portfolios to meet, the record of the president thus far encourages us to believe the removal of the inefficient will be brought about and the establishment in their stead of men who are deemed equal to the duties of the office, effected.

The avoidance of hurry in a situation which demands the utmost haste compatible with sound judgment is the president's most conspicuous characteristic in his management of the nation's affairs in this period of activity. It is the characteristic which will, in the end, bring into the places where they are most needed the men of the nation best fitted to meet the unusual demands of the times. If the public will exercise some measure of the patience and judicious deliberation of the president we shall have a combination of executive ability and co-operation of parts which will make America the efficient nation which it ought to be.

## Government Bulletins.

The revival of interest in the home preservation of fruits and vegetables is a wholesome result of the food conservation movement, as is anything which intensifies the relation of women to their homes and families. The increased acquaintanceship between the bulletins of the government and the housewives of the nation is an accompanying benefit which will extend to the period following the present abnormal time.

The nation maintains at great expense a system of experiment stations in which work is constantly being carried on by experts to forward knowledge of just the things which housewives and those who produce food materials should know. The very great effectiveness of which such work is capable has never been achieved because there has been a failure of the public to take that interest in the report necessary to dissemination of the principles proved and set forth. The calling of these pamphlets to the attention of the general public, and particularly to that of the women, is a wartime work which will outlast the war in benefit to the nation.

## War Registration of Women.

The registration of the women of the north shore is under consideration of the local war unions, as a step towards the proper organization of the work which women may be called upon to do in the period of the war which is soon to change the character of our industrial system and to put new hands at work in many kinds of work considered to be, in the past, the sphere of men.

Women will be asked to register their names with the work which they are equipped to do if there is need for them to take a hand in the absence of men or in the new work which the war creates. They are asked to consider their talents and to catalogue their powers for the benefit of the council of defense, so that, if the demand should arise, the men who are in charge of this unofficial war work may know where to look for women to perform a cer-

tain duty which needs to be done.

The danger of such a registering of the possibilities of women's work lies in the inability of the women themselves to gauge their own powers, to know whether or not their work is sufficiently near to perfect to have a real value to the nation, the likelihood that many women will register for work which they have not the time to perform, the possibility of the neglect of important home work for the doing of something which in reality is less important to the nation than strict attendance upon the proper duties of the women to their families. These are the points which women should avoid in signing their names and listing their talents for the use of the war council.

A registry that tells anything but the truth, which creates a reliance upon power which does not exist, is very far from being an advantage to war councils in their work of regulation of the local affairs of the community under their supervision.

## An Appeal to Boys

David Star Jordan

Your FIRST DUTY in life is toward your AFTERSELF.

So live that your AFTERSELF—the MAN you OUGHT TO BE—may in his time be possible and actual.

Far away in the years he is waiting his turn. His BODY, his BRAIN, his SOUL are in your hands. He cannot help himself.

WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE FOR HIM?

Will it be

A BRAIN unspoiled by lust of dissipation.

A MIND trained to think and act, A NERVOUS SYSTEM, true as a dial in its response to the truth about you?

Will you, Boy, let him come as a man among men in his time?

Or will you throw away his inheritance before he has had a chance to touch it?

Will you turn over to him

A BRAIN distorted,

A MIND diseased,

A WILL untrained,

A SPINAL CORD grown through and through with the devil-grass of that vile harvest we call wild oats?

THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM IN LIFE; the problem of more importance to you than any or all others.

HOW WILL YOU MEET IT, as a MAN or as a FOOL?

"WHEN YOU ANSWER THIS, WE SHALL KNOW WHAT USE THE WORLD CAN MAKE OF YOU."

## JOFFRE IN MONTREAL

London Chronicle

A pretty story comes from Canada concerning Marshal Joffre and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Montreal. Greeting the marshal, the archbishop said: "Generally it is the soldier who kisses the hand of the prelate. Today it is fitting that the prelate should kiss the hand of the great soldier."

## TRENCH STUFF

Richmond Times-Dispatch

"That 'ere Sammy's an educated toff from 'Arvard," said Tommy Atkins, leaning on his spade. "I'm jolly well weary of 'is learnin', too, that I am. We're ordered to throw up trenches along the Marne, and as 'e picks up 'is spade, th' bloomin' college blighter says, says 'e: 'Well, Tommy, come on; it looks like we're infra dig!' And wot I says is: 'Blarst a college education anyhow, eh?'"

## Conscription's Advantage

Philadelphia Bulletin

"The advantage of conscription," said ex-President Taft, "is that it puts every man in the place best fitted for him.

"It's like the case of the captain of the man-of-war. He saw a new hand loafing by the rail.

"What was this chap in civil life?" he demanded.

"A milkman, sir," was the reply. "Then," roared the captain, "to the pumps with him at once!"

## A Ready Witted Parson

Boston Transcript

The evening lesson was from the Book of Job and the minister had just read, "Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out," when immediately the church was in total darkness.

"Brethren," said the minister with scarcely a moment's pause, "in view of the sudden and startling fulfillment of this prophecy, we will spend a few minutes in silent prayer for the electric lighting company."

## Selected.

When a "Cookery Book to Make the World Free for Democracy" fails to include Diplomatic pudding among its wartime recipes, suspicion naturally rests upon the censor.

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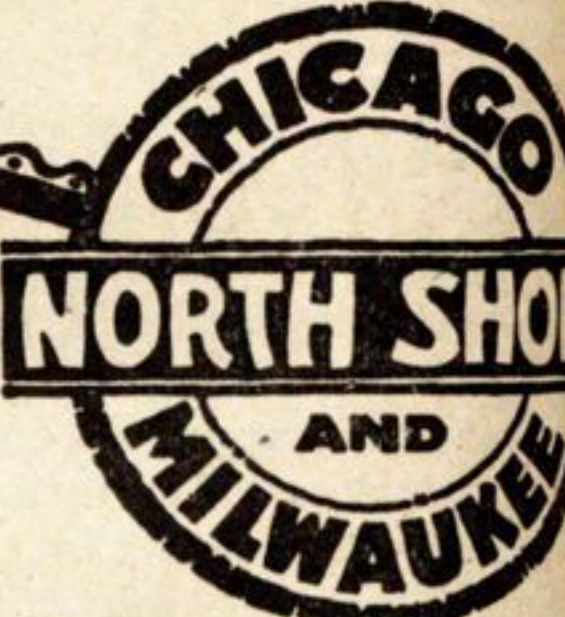
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