

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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Let Us Be Sure of Our Facts.

It is unavoidable, as it is regrettable, that under the present state of strain on nerves and patience, there should be some tendency to suspicion, sometimes justified, sometimes not. It is necessary, of course, that there should be every precaution exercised to prevent any deed of hostility to the government, to curtail the spread of enemy propaganda, but there must be, at the same time, such self-control and good judgment exercised as to protect the inoffensive alien from injustice on the part of the public.

In the recent excitement in New Trier High school relative to the reported inattention of a German teacher whom the pupils have considered perhaps not entirely loyal to the government of the United States, it has been regrettable that the judgment of pupils should have run counter to that of the principal of the school, that there should have been raised this question which, in the opinion of the school authorities, has no real foundation in fact.

It should be constantly borne in mind by patriotic citizens that much harm may come from the unthinking expression of doubts. Correction of mistakes which are made can never undo the wrong done, retraction of statements can never be as far-reaching as the first utterance. It is essential that every patriot be constantly upon the watch for evidence of disloyalty, but it is equally essential that there be a reserving of judgment until the truth of suspicion is established by those who are in a position to know the full facts.

Hybrid Cookery.

Many well meant attempts to comply with the demands of the times and of the food administration for the conservation of the food materials which it is necessary to spread to cover not only our needs but those of our Allies are launched, both by private individuals and by public effort. Among the misspent energies are those which have for their purpose the demonstration of new methods of using corn meal, intended to extend the employment of the product of corn to save the flour of the wheat which is necessary for shipment abroad.

Most of the formulae which are presented by the public demonstrators of corn meal are based upon the use of a relatively large quantity of wheat flour, also, as well as of fat, sugar and eggs. These recipes are, according to anyone who has had experience with the corn breads made

in the South, based upon an erroneous assumption that there is necessary in the mixture other flour than corn meal. The combination is one not used by those who habitually eat corn bread. There is needed no wheat flour, no sugar, no eggs to make the corn breads of the South, and no other corn bread will be sufficiently well liked to prosper in the campaign now being made to institute its general use.

Much of our food conservation efforts are entirely misdirected, like this of the creation of bread from corn meal and white flour. All sorts of recipes professing the virtue of being without this, that or the other ingredient usually associated with it, are being presented with a claim to public attention. The pumpkin-less pumpkin pie is a fair example of the value of much of this hybrid cookery, a concoction of corn meal, eggs, butter, sugar, cream, and various other materials, all more expensive and more needed in our food economy than the pumpkin, for which there is no other use than the making of pies.

Housewives should not be stampeded by the ingenuity which produces these strange products of the kitchen. It is a time for the application of the good old variety of common sense to all the innovations which are brought out in the name of economy and conservation. A few will stand the test. The great majority will not. Let us learn to discriminate.

Promiscuous Gathering of Children.

Almost every day's newspaper from Chicago records new cases of diphtheria in the city. Nevertheless, there are being held regularly knitting classes for children, story hours in the big department stores, and soon the playrooms will be filled with little people whose mothers leave them under the care of the attendant while they do the shopping which has brought them to the city.

It is a very great convenience to the mother who has no servant to leave in charge of the children while she makes her trip to the loop. It is a pleasant diversion for the children to have a trained story teller to amuse them while mother shops. It is, perhaps, not a bad thing to teach little fingers to knit. But it is certainly an unwise practice to group children promiscuously in a large city when there is present in that city many centers of infection with all the diseases to which children are particularly susceptible.

Individual mothers cannot be relied upon to protect the children of the city from the danger which lurks in these public gatherings. Convenience, ignorance and thoughtlessness, taken together, account for the practice. Action by the health authorities alone could effect an elimination of these public gatherings of children under conditions unknown to anybody, and the health authorities certainly should take in hand the situation.

As to Square Pegs and Round Holes.

Many a man has gone through life a failure because he has been a square peg in a round hole. To the bitterness of failure is added the unhappiness of doing day after day an uncongenial task, doing incompetently the work which fate seems to have decreed, when there is the sense that in some other line of activity there would be found pleasure and satisfaction and the success which comes to the competent.

This is exactly what the War Department is seeking to avoid in the making up of the army to serve in France and the industrial army to

serve at home, the object of the selective draft. The drafting of men into service for digging trenches who are, for instance, trained shipbuilders, represents a clear waste of ability and education. It is putting a square peg in a round hole, setting a man at an uncongenial task when he has a capacity for service in another way in which he would be competent and of vastly greater value to the country.

It is natural that the physically fit should wish to have a place in the line. There is the danger, there the new need, there the work which can be done only by the best that the country can produce. This is the sentiment which must be overcome if we are to find men willing and glad to render service in the shipyards, in the munitions plants. It is not fair to brand as cowards men who are set to doing the thing that they can do best for the good of the country.

Through the registration of the abilities of the men who are subject to the draft by means of the questionnaire, answers to which they are to submit for the information of the War Department, it will be possible to avoid this waste of training with the bad effect which results upon the industrial and agricultural activities of the nation, both as important in their way as the military and naval preparations and performances. Without a strong support in the munitions plants, without an adequate food supply, the men at the front will not be able to give their best service. With an indiscriminate drawing of men into the fighting forces for overseas service, and the filling of the shipyards and munitions plants and textile factories with those who fail to pass the physical examination or are for other reasons exempted from active service, there will be a certain defeat of the great efficiency of the army and an assured prolongation of the war, with victory less a matter of course than under the newly adopted plan of draft.

ANNOUNCE NEW RULES ON DRAFT QUESTION

(Continued from page 14.)

so applying, subject to the limitations as to disclosures provided in the foregoing section 11.

Deferred Classification.

The government has thrown another difficulty in the way of those who are seeking deferred classification by requiring each local board to note a recommendation on the back of every questionnaire which contains such a claim. Heretofore the claim was made by the registrant without let or hindrance on the part of the local board, but rule 32 provides:

"If claim is made for deferred classification on the ground of engagement in industry or agriculture (whether there be any other claim or not), the local board shall in all cases indorse upon the questionnaire, in the place provided (p. 16), its recommendation as to the merits of such claim and its findings as to any fact bearing on such claim as it desires to have considered in support of such recommendation."

High School Play.

The members of the New Trier High School Dramatic club will present "Rabina in Search of a Husband" Friday night at the school auditorium. Miss Louise Chapman is directing the students' club this

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