

# Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918

## Destroying Germany's Fleet

We have passed through an era of expenditure the like of which has never before been known. Millions are small change under the order of the day and people talk of billions as if they were to be picked off trees. With this preparation it is perhaps natural that there should be the suggestion that the whole German fleet be taken into mid-ocean and there sunk to avoid the possibility of dispute over the distribution of its units among the nations involved in the peace settlement and to eliminate the question of financial reward and the distribution of spoils of battle from the deliberations of the council.

It is more than probable that the report of the decision of the American delegates to support the suggestion of destruction is based upon no proper foundation of truth, but there is likewise the possibility that it is a reflection of sentiment in some quarters. We cannot, however, believe that there will be any serious consideration of such a disposition of the ships of the German navy unless there is likewise a provision for the entire naval disarmament, which is not only unlikely but impossible.

Nothing seems to be more assured for the future than the fact that the building of ships of war will go on in the future much as it has gone on in the past. There is no disposition on the part of any people to surrender the protection of their ports and the assurance of commerce under any contingency.

The peace conference is supposed to be a body of men bent upon settling by mutual agreement the many vexed questions that will come before it. To give up the problem of a settlement of the question of the disposition of the German fleet without any attempt to solve it speaks but poorly for the capacity for arbitration and compromise which ought to be characteristic of the representatives of the assembly if the peace conference is to be anything but a bargain table.

## The Need of Economy

There is one thing to which all people agree theoretically and few practice really, the need of the country and the individuals that compose the country to exercise that economy which is needful to tide us safely over the difficult days that are ahead.

Just before the armistice was signed a great many people had really made up their minds to practice economy throughout the period of the war. Women were inclined to wear their old clothes, quite as much as a matter of principle in many cases as of a desire to save money. Men were giving up luxuries which they had practiced without thought in other days. Households were run on lines of closer economy and "doing one's own work" became almost a mark of distinction. But the coming of peace has changed all that. We have forgotten our good resolutions and have begun again upon the old ways of extravagance and easy spending. It is reflected both in our private lives and in the public, in the home as in the government.

We must in some way regain the ground upon which we were just getting a foothold if we are to save the country from disaster during the hard period of the readjustment of all our social and industrial structure. There

will be a certain day of reckoning unless we in America begin to consider those conditions which have resulted in Russia and Germany. It is time for us as a people, and for our government as well, to realize that what we happen to have a desire for ought to bear some relation to what we have ability to pay for. Otherwise we shall find ourselves, at the end of our age of folly overburdened by a weight of debt.

## A Living Memorial To The Heroic Dead

It is a suitable recognition that Newark, New Jersey, is paying her sons who have given their lives in the service of their country in planting trees to their memory along the new Lincoln Highway, the trees bearing bronze tablets upon which is inscribed the name, the military unit to which the soldier was attached, the place and date of death. A living memorial to men whose lives have been spent in a cause which will bring life more abundant to untold millions of men, women and children, whose sacrifice will live on for all time in the changed history of the world, is most appropriate.

With the return of the men from the service work upon public improvements is urged by the government and the prosecution of the building of the transcontinental highway is planned by those who are in authority over its construction. The planting of trees by the wayside will greatly increase the beauty of such a driveway and the comfort of those who pass upon it. Other cities, other states, might well adopt the plan of the New Jersey city and create along the highway named in honor of Abraham Lincoln a splendid avenue of trees to the memory of the men who also laid down their lives, martyrs to the cause of freedom for oppressed peoples.

## No More Volunteer Armies

Provost General Crowder says that there will be no more volunteer armies that conscription will henceforth rule in the calling of men for military service.

The American people accepted conscription at the beginning of the war, unanimously agreed that in no other way could the burden of service be justly distributed. Many of our gallant youths enlisted before the passing of the draft law, fearful that the stain upon the conscript of the Civil War days would be still existent. But there was no feeling whatever that the man who waited to be assigned by the government to the task which he was chosen to do had tried in any way to avoid his full duty to his country.

There is no argument for the volunteer system of securing an army in an emergency. It does not provide adequate material in a short time. It does not secure to the government the right to place a man where he can be of the greatest service. It does not effect a just distribution of duty. It does still, in a measure, preserve the romantic idea of rushing to the service of the colors, and hence a little of the romance of war, but war as we have learned to know it since 1914 has little romance unreplaced by science, and the draft system of raising an army is far more in accord with a condition in which scientific considerations prevail.

The draft system is the only one for a democracy, for it is the only one which imposes the duty of protection of the country and its institutions upon every class alike.

## Let Investigation Wait

The investigation of the expenditures at the Hog Island ship building plant reveals a waste of money in construction that is disturbing to the people of America who have provided the funds with which this and other war material manufacturing enterprises have been financed. But it astonishes no one, for it has been fully understood that money has been the last consideration in the breathless program of preparation for war that the United States by the circumstances of our late participation in it was compelled to pursue.

Justice demands the investigation

of charges of extravagance and misuse of public funds, but it should not be the main business of the government at this time. They can wait. Just now our future welfare rests in the working out of reasonable and right policies and principles to govern our program of reconstruction, and these ought not to have to wait upon any other duties.

If there is found to have been dishonest use of public money in any of the businesses incident to the war, there must be full examination of the circumstances and just punishment of the offenders. But records will be at hand for examination after the more imperative matters have been cared for, and it is these problems of domestic and international policies that must be taken up and solved as rapidly as may be, for upon them depends the period of time to be consumed in the processes of readjustment that will be preliminary to the ushering in of the era of normal economic conditions.

## "BIRD OF PARADISE" AT VICTORIA THEATER

Florence Rockwell, as Luana, in "The Bird of Paradise", Richard W. Tully's drama of Hawaii, is announced for presentation at the Victoria theater for one week starting Sunday matinee, December 29, with a special matinee New Years day.

Despite the fact that the play is in its eighth year, there seems to be no signs of waning interest with theatergoers. Each time the piece has been offered here a new face appears in the leading role. This season brings Florence Rockwell, as Luana, the little Hawaiian princess. Miss Rockwell is best remembered for her portrayal in the many Shakespearean roles in the support of Robert B. Mantell. Others in the cast are G. B. Leffingwell, John Walter, Spring Byington, Rose Watson, Hal Chase, Charles Bird, and the five Hawaiian singers and players.

## SKOKIE MEMBERS READY FOR BUSY SEASON IN 1919

Under the leadership of President F. E. Compton, the Skokie Country club is making plans for a busy season, both socially and on the golf course.

Improvements on the course will be given primary consideration, although since it was remodeled by D. Ross no player, professional or amateur, has been able to equal the par of 70.

There are a few holes which can be improved, and they will receive attention this spring. When these alterations are completed, the Skokie members believe they will have one of the best courses in the middle west.

The greens were in good shape last fall, but under the supervision of Stewart Gardner, the Old Elm professional, who has been engaged in an advisory capacity, it is expected the turf will reach perfection. Phil Gaudin, the new professional, is an experienced greenkeeper having had charge of a thirty-six hole course in England before coming to the On-wentsia club.

## Makers of Heroes

Emerson says, "Times of heroism are generally times of terror." They show true character. It seems that human nature needs a test to show the stuff it's made of. Spirits of heroic mold often lie dormant until aroused by a mighty challenge. It seems as though there is some militarism of the soul that waits the fife call and the measure of the drum beat. Not fear but lack of occasion keeps the latent might unconscious of itself. But let the need call and the sleeping giant rouses and strides forward to the dismay of petty puppets of annoyance.

Mrs. Percy Andrews of Lake avenue entertained at a family dinner on Christmas Day.

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the Strowger system was an undertaker who was in no way connected with electrical engineering or with any telephone enterprise.

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## Eliminating the Waste

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