

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1919

Precept Without Practice

The government has been talking thrift for the two years since we went into the war. People have been asked, nay, urged, almost commanded, to save their pennies, dimes and quarters, to buy Thrift stamps and the government securities of higher denomination. It has been impressed upon us that the amount of the investment was not so important as the fact of the saving represented. And it was a lesson of which we were in sore need.

But it is a sad awakening to the American people who have honestly tried to attain this virtue of thrift to have the government itself stand for the many varieties of extravagance that it has practiced all through the war. When we were wildly preparing for our part in the fighting program we excused the evident waste upon the grounds of it being necessary to sacrifice economy in the interest of speed. But now that the press of haste is over we see exactly the same policy being carried on into peace time, a policy which is amply illustrated in the announcement that the American stock of military aircraft is to be junked and the larger portion of the German fleet, that part which is not to be given to Italy, is to be sunk in mid-ocean.

There is no possibility of reconciling such a practice with the government's thrift preachments and little reason to expect that the American people will ever again take much stock in the admonition of authorities at Washington on the subject of the "happy habit of thrift."

There are limits to the credulity of even an American public and it will be reached, in so far as listening to tales of the joy of saving pennies is concerned, if the American government deliberately stands for anything so absolutely wasteful as the junking of the airplanes which have been produced at a cost of a billion and a half dollars and for the sinking of the tons and tons of valuable metal which is contained in the battle fleet of the late German empire.

Bird And Arbor Days

Governor Lowden has issued the annual proclamation appointing April 18 and October 17 Bird and Arbor Days.

It is significant of the growing appreciation of the value of the bird life; to the welfare of the trees, that these two days should be made jointly Bird and Arbor Days. There is little sense in planting a tree if the birds which destroy the insects that prey upon trees are not encouraged as well, and it is of little use to set aside a day for birds if there is no thought given to providing the trees that give them what sanctuary there is to be had from marauding animals.

The north shore has beautiful trees and it might have a large number of birds if there were provided the conditions that serve to protect them. Our trees, to be sure, are more or less infested with various insects, but they are nevertheless still beautiful, the greatest pride of the region. Regard for the safety of the birds ought to be made the subject of discussion in groups that are disposed to celebrate Arbor and Bird days, for the danger to our birds, personified in the stray cat, is equally a danger to

the trees. Foster an interest in the birds is the surest way to an elimination of regard for the animals that prey upon them.

The Railroad And The Public

Nothing seems to be very sure about the railroad situation, complicated by the failure of the sixty-fifth Congress to pass the General Deficiency bill by which \$750,000,000 was to be supplied for the administration of the railways, except that Director-General Hines has stated that in no event will the railroads be returned upon short notice to their owners.

Just what is to be done will have to be worked out, if there is a solution that does not involve turning the roads back to their former owners forthwith. If the question were one simply between the government and the railroad owners, there would be no particular anxiety as to what would be the result of the complication effected by the failure of Congress to provide the necessary legislation to afford money for operation of the railroads. But they are least affected, for it is the American public that pays in any event for what is done, pays in money, pays in inconvenience, pays in the lessened efficiency of all business and industrial life. The railroads are not private or governmental property strictly speaking. The general public has the right to expect to have the systems operated smoothly and safely in accordance with its convenience and welfare.

The Victory Loan Campaign

The Victory Loan campaign is to open April 21 and continue until May 10, three weeks in which it is expected that the loan of seven billion dollars will be provided by the American public.

There is a measure of uneasiness in the hearts of those who are desirous of seeing the nation rise to meet this last obligation of the war lest the people fail to make the sacrifice that they have made in other loans because the danger in which the country stood then has been removed and no one now fears the coming of a German fleet, either of the air or the sea, to the seacoast cities of the United States.

The result of the approaching loan will pretty well determine whether the American people were actuated in their support of the war during the period of fighting by real patriotism, devotion to the cause of Democracy, and a determination to back up the government to the very limit of their resources in fighting for it, or by fear of the consequences of failure to win and the results of a German invasion of the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

It would be a sad commentary upon our motives for enthusiastic support of the earlier loans if this, in any measure, falls behind in the support that it receives.

MEDALS AWARDED IN COMPETITIVE DRILL

Medals were awarded to the winners of the different companies at the competitive drill, held last Friday at the New Trier High school and reviewed by several Wilmette officers. Medals for first prize were in gold, second in silver, third and fourth in bronze. The winners in the different companies in their order were:

Company A—Jack Robbins, Fred Gage, Olney Brown, Martin Jansson.
Company B—Kenneth Watson, George Emrich, Lloyd Quayle, Godfrey Phillips.

Company C—Bradley Pruden, Arthur Siebold, Norman Miller, Norman Shellman.

Company D—Richard Osgood, Fred Rye, James Burnham, Douglas Boyer.
Officers—Edward Yunkers, Howard Jones, Albert Tucker, Carl Aspenwall.

WANT GAGE'S BEACH TO BECOME PART OF FOREST PRESERVE

Representatives of Wilmette and other north shore towns are scheduled to appear before the Forest Preserve Board at the offices of the County Commissioners in Chicago, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock to discuss the advisability of adding Gage's beach to the Forest Preserve lands.

The Forest Preserve commission of Cook County, have before its committee at this time for consideration, the purchase of this beautifully wooded Lake Shore property and beach for use of the public. They are to consider the acquisition of this property this month. Co-operation of the Village boards of Wilmette, Kenilworth and Gross Point, and the clubs and societies, is sought to insure the success of this project.

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