

WINNETKA WEEKLY TALK
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1920

The Tank Company

There is something significant in the news reports of the recruiting for the new tank company which is in process of formation in Wilmette and Evanston. The one feature which stands out boldly and offers food for thought is the announcement that many veterans of the world war, who saw and went through hard fighting and won citations for exceptional bravery under fire, are enlisting as privates in Company "G." Some were in the air service, others in the marines and others in the various branches. Many of the new recruits were commissioned officers, yet they have elected to join as buck privates in this new unit.

It might mean many things, this attitude of the world war veterans. In some cases their enlistment might be due to the appeal of the legion commanders that the former service men quickly recruit the new unit to its full strength. Still others, who served their country so well and unselfishly, are still filled with the martial spirit and enjoy the life of the army man.

We are inclined to the belief that the main reason why former officers and veterans of the recent struggle have presented themselves at the recruiting stations is their earnest belief that never again should the United States be so woefully lacking in preparedness as it was when we entered the war. These men know better than anyone else what it meant to go across the seas minus experienced leaders and lacking in proper fighting equipment.

These young old men have not joined a tank company for glory. There is no glory to a member of a military organization in peace time. They do not seek the plaudits of the populace, for they know that it will not be forthcoming. But they do want to be of service. They want to be prepared to do their bit again if they should be called upon and they want to be sure that they will have some idea of what they are to do and know how to do it. Their enlistment should be an object lesson to the pacifist and the stay-at-homes who are as indifferent to the future as they were prior to the world war.

These young men who are enlisting in this tank company are deserving of the commendation of the citizens of Wilmette.

The Irish Question And American Politics

The Irish question as an issue in American politics is one not to be neglected by the astute politician, nor is it likely to be. It is only because of the astute politician that there is an Irish question, only because the people of Irish descent who help to make up the electorate of the United States are courted through their prejudice against England that there is any Irish question in American politics.

The Irish American, is he is worthy of consideration at all, is no more Irish than the American of any other descent. Allegiance to the United States which is pledged when the Irishman becomes a part of the body politic of the United States, forbids any active sympathy with the questions that concern only the Irish of

Ireland and the British government. To inject the question into an American campaign is the work of the unscrupulous politician who deliberately excites the rather hot headed Irishman hoping that the evidences of sympathy with the trials of Irish friends and relatives still in the old country will be repaid in the form of support at the polls.

The settlement of the Irish question has puzzled the best brains of Ireland and of England for centuries. That it can be settled by campaign speeches in the United States and by the election of a certain group of men to the legislative and executive offices in the United States is not among the possibilities. Opinion upon the policies followed by the British government and by the leaders of the revolting Irish there must be. But the opinion should have no more to do with the election in America than the opinion held concerning the question at issue between the Russians and

the Poles. As a real matter of fact it is far less likely to affect us as a people.

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