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PUBLIC FORUM

Editor,
WINNETKA TALK:

May I ask your attention and space to express some thoughts of mine concerning the proposed Winnetka Memorial?

This letter is written in a kindly-critical, wondering vein.

How many people of Winnetka are in favor of the type of memorial which has been, apparently, adopted? I do not know. I have talked with several of the respected and best known citizens, and in only one case have I found any sympathy for the plan of a monumental memorial. There is a number of points to be considered. A vital one is what the memorial will mean to generations to come. Another is what the men who have died would have wished.

However, too often we are of the feeling that those who have died have offered a tremendous amount more than have those who returned. This, to my mind, is unfortunate. It was quite accidental that one died, another did not. If we would remember that there are thousands of disabled men who will never live again, yet who must exist, my point can be understood.

Taking human nature as it seems to be, I am quite sure the outstanding majority of those whom we seek to honor would chose a useful, if any, memorial.

A stone speakers' stand, a semi-circle of cement and sand, whatever it be, like that, can not add to the simple beauty of the Winnetka green. Forty thousand dollars spent in erecting an almost meaningless and not, as I see it, symbolical tribute to our noble men is too much to be lightly considered.

This war, we hope, is the last for us.

The money isn't needed until the spring but subscription blanks are needed now for the WINNETKA MEMORIAL.

The countries of Europe are ever restless, witness Italy, France; and we, too, are made of blood which quickens its flow in times of cause. Hope does spring eternally. Yet, this same memorial, were it built, fittingly and affectionately dedicated, and understood to be a reminder of the terrible sacrifices we all made in that war, would have another use, were we involved again.

The very stones on which the speakers will eulogize the departed in dedicating the memorial would support war-inflamed patriots while urging us to fight for America in another conflict.

The money could be used in adding to our public library. Its income might help support suffering ex-soldiers. Our fine schools could be improved. There is no small number of uses to which the money might be put, rather than erecting an even beautiful monument to the men who were in the war.

Must the children and nurses stare at the marker daily? Shall the adults and children, visitors, everyone stand, play, parade in its sad shadow in May and July? Must the money be raised? A simple boulder with a bronze tablet can more than hold all our feelings, can not mar the green, can be dedicated in as an impressive manner, can be a fitting token of respect for those who participated.

Feeling that my youth may seem to be carrying me away, I wish to say that the fear of unlimited numbers of unfitting memorials has been with me ever since before the Armistice, at which time I was but sixteen years old. I may be entirely wrong in my views, yet have taken the liberty of offering them to your publication with the desire that they may meet with public approval or condemnation.

To my mind, it is not too late to change.

Donald Cameron,
The Skokie school,
Winnetka, Illinois.

Mrs. Randolph Buck of 1290 Scott avenue will return Saturday, November 20, from a visit with her daughter in the east.

The New HOOVER . . . for Christmas

IT BEATS . . . as it Sweeps as it Cleans



It's not too early to start thinking of what you're going to give the Missus for Christmas.

There can be no gift that would be more appreciative than a HOOVER.

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