

The Andover News

Published Weekly by J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

OUR KEYNOTE: If There is not a Way, Cut a Way.

Andover, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1918.

Subscription Rates: One year \$1.00, Six months .60, Three months .35, Single copy 5c.

Advertising Rates: Display advertising for an inch, holding notices at a time, 10c per line.

The latest crisis in Russia last ed over night.

This would be a good time to include the sheep-killing dog in the malthus days.

The administration might even things up a little by ordering some snowbirds.

And now Russia wants a senate. Wonder how many more calamities they will wish upon their heads.

It is said that German people have been eating their dogs.

Hot dogs is no meaningless term over there.

Hooverizing seems to have successfully taken the place of fleetherizing as a remedy for all the stomach ills.

Farmers will soon be afraid to be seen bringing eggs to town for fear of encountering the income tax collector.

Those first five coalless days were about as far removed from coalless days as the weatherman has given us so far.

If you have any doubt as to whether you should close up on Monday, just close up, and argue the question afterward.

T. R. spent several weeks in Washington. He did so little talking that people are wondering if he is charged with a time fuse.

Gen. Pershing is reported as being engaged to be married. Let us hope this engagement will be free from the dangers incident to the one Uncle Sam has entrusted him with.

Are you looking for a loophole whereby you may dodge the Monday closing order? Shame, brother! Rather ask doesn't the order ask you to close if you can do so without permanent injury to your business or deprivation to the public? The patriot will close his doors if there is the merest chance that the order includes him; the dollar chaser will find a way out if it is to be found. By their fruit shall ye know them.

Luke McLuke claims to be the only humorist who never wrote a mother-in-law joke. Has Luke a mother-in-law? and is she so formidable as all that?

An evangelist says the kaiser and his field marshals will spend eternity in hell. In that case Judas Escariot should start a petition for a pardon.

Dr. Garfield might at least have gotten a little more co-operation on the part of the weather man before springing the order for those heatless days.

The one redeeming feature of the Russian muddle is that when the daily papers are short of feature news, they can always find "another crisis in the Russian situation."

Between the task of keeping the outside world ignorant of the true situation of Germany and keeping the German people ignorant of the true situation of the outside world, the kaiser is about as busy as a man with a basket of eels.

In olden times there was an old saying that when "thieves fall out honest men get their due." Now instead of falling out they divide the territory and honest men don't stand the ghost of a chance.

TOWNS GROWTH IS IN PROPORTION TO RURAL PROSPERITY

The ambition of every town to grow and develop and prosper is the basic law of nature. With growth comes decay.

We are forced to admit that there are conditions under which a law may be made in a measure independent of the surrounding country. As to whether or not that territory is prosperous, but these instances are rare and not by any means the rule.

The United States is preeminently an agricultural nation. Today she is literally undertaking to build the world. To accomplish this gigantic task every resource must be utilized and developed to the utmost. The soil must be made to yield as it has never before yielded, and the millions of acres of our domain that have heretofore lain fallow must be brought under cultivation.

The great majority of American towns, and Andover chief of them all, are directly dependent for their growth and prosperity on the surrounding country. They advance or retrograde in exact proportion to the surrounding territory develops or deteriorates.

The town, then, that has an ambition to advance, to build up, spread out and prosper, should first of all devote its energies to the fullest possible development of the community from which it derives its sustenance. This not merely from the standpoint of benevolence or philanthropy, but as a measure of pure self-interest.

To demonstrate the truth of this assertion, one has but to observe the number of towns in this country that are really overgrown—developed out of all proportion to the surrounding country. And in every one of such towns, business conditions are abnormal. The growth has been a mushroom growth, with no enduring foundation, and as soon as the general prosperity of the country has a slight decline, these are the first towns to suffer. This was particularly noticeable in the old boom days of the 80's and 90's when many towns sprung up without any other excuse than the ambition of some syndicate to unload a piece of property on the public. The wrecks of many of such towns still mar the landscape in all parts of our country.

The town that would insure its growth based on a solid foundation, should make the development of the surrounding territory its first consideration. The establishment of a sawmill, opening of a rock quarry or a brick kiln, the development of all and every industry of the rural districts is of as vital interest to the dwellers of the town as to the parties directly concerned therein. The organization of farmers' clubs, granges, girls' canning clubs, boys' corn and pig clubs—all these as vitally affect the town people as the country folk, because they are factors in the general prosperity from which the town must draw its enduring strength. A poor road leading from any community to the town is as much a matter of concern to the town as to the community affected. The country fair, while of incalculable benefit to the farming interests, is equally beneficial to the town.

And thus it goes thru the entire list of community interests. The welfare and prosperity of the town dweller bears an exact ratio to that of the rural population. Their interests are inextricably interwoven. It is however, far easier for the farmer to dispense with the backing of the town people than for the latter to ignore his support.

We have written thus plainly with the hope that we might perhaps cause some to view the national problems in a national light. This is an era of development. The world is calling for the best that America can give it. Thousands of our men are flocking to the great manufacturing centers. Not only must war materials be furnished, but all the arts of peace must be supplied.

But the farms are preeminently the great food storehouses of the land. The farmers must feed us. We are fed, and without his product all other branches of industry become impotent. His calling is, always has been, and

always will be the backbone and foundation of our national life. Upon the firm must be built our prosperity, and by the prosperity of the farm must we stand or fall.

To the millions of dwellers in the cities and towns we wish we could get this message: Give your first and best efforts to building a solid enduring rural prosperity, developing its every interest to the utmost, and all the adverse powers of earth can not prevent your sharing as an equal partner in that prosperity.

A BASE LABEL

Pennsylvania "Grit" says: "An uplift organization has set out to find and reform the champion bad boy. Look for the lad with red hair, freckles and a 'yaller dog.' The writer of the above should either be sentenced to a heavy penalty for libel, or fired from his job for his woeful lack of knowledge of human nature. In the first place, he hasn't given a single 'symptom' of the bad boy."

First, red hair. Now who ever saw a red-headed boy who was a coward? Cowardice is the most prominent characteristic of the really bad boy. It is utterly impossible to reconcile badness with bravery. The bad boy is also a sneak, and the fiery-headed youngster is too impetuous to even entertain a sneaking thought. He is, if anything, too frank and downright for his own good in this age of diplomacy.

And freckles. They usually go with a pug nose, too. Fancy the combination in a "bad" boy. Why, he is the incarnation of all that is jolly, rollicking, sunny tempered and all around "dever." He is ever ready to oblige, and really delights in doing a favor. He has a great sense of humor, and is an inveterate logic for fun and practical jokes, but bad—never.

And owns a "yaller dog." The most damnable libel of all. Psychologists have sought vainly for the strange affinity between the boy and his unlovely dumb friend, but one thing sure is there and in full force. Can he be that in the poor brute the brain finds that for which he vainly seeks elsewhere—reciprocal love that is perfect and without a flaw? It would fully account for the "yaller dog."

If the uplift society ever finds the typical bad boy, he will bear the slightest resemblance to "Grit's" picture. First, he will be outwardly tauntless. His person and his manners will be found pleasing, and his smile will be peculiarly pleasing. He will be accomplished even polished in his conversation.

And then he will never be brought to the notice of the uplift society, for the reason that all this charm of person is all most sufficient to blind even the angels of heaven to the fact that at the core—deep down in his heart—he is bad—rotten.

Yes, he is walking the streets of our villages and cities every day, but the uplift society will never get him.

STAMP OUT POLITICS

The assertion of Senator Stone that the republican members of Congress are lining up against the administration, is untimely and unjust. Even if true—which few people believe—it would be most unwise on the part of the administration to take notice of it. President Wilson and his cabinet have been entrusted, under the constitution, with the conduct of the war, and the great mass of the American people are satisfied with the progress they are making that there have been mistakes made, none will deny. But these mistakes have not been of such nature as to alienate the support of the Republican party.

Naturally the elections of the coming summer and fall call for organization of all parties, and this is going on, the Democrats as well as all others. This can be done, however, without in any measure taking from the loyal support of the war program. We believe it will be so done.

Senator Stone should remember that his own loyalty is of the forced brand. At the head of the Senate Committee on foreign affairs, he opposed the United States entering the war, up to the very last, and only after the eye was cast did he pledge his support to the administration.

predicted all manner of calamities for this country, and there will not be wanting those who would accuse him of cherishing a desire to come back with an "I told you so."

The Senate is practically alone in his fears for the country. The chief party leaders seem satisfied with the splendid support accorded the President's war policy by his political opponents, and which support they have every reason to believe will be continued.

W. S. S.

We have no disposition to minimize the importance of the action of the Government in ordering the registration of all alien enemies. This should have been done at the time we entered the war, but we greatly fear that even this move will not put a stop to the machinations of the enemy in this country, from the fact that his readiest tools are not aliens, but citizens of this country. There is an easy person to watch, but the traitorous citizen sometimes baffles the best efforts of the police. And, humiliating as it is to admit it, we have a number of these. Some of them would doubtless balk at actual sedition, yet every day of their lives they are aiding the cause of the Hun. They kick and knock and find fault with every act of our Government, and if they were men of weight their pessimistic influence would be disastrous. Happily for the country, however, the great majority of our people are loyal, and they soon place these gentry where they rightfully belong—outside the pale.

W. S. S.

It is about time Nick Romanoff were escaping again.

W. S. S.

An Illinois soldier whipped twenty-five men in order to get the man who called him a bar.

Another is right in line for "over there" in France.

Allies expect to whip five men in order to get the man who keeps calling them "infernal misers."

W. S. S.

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