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PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1915.

Riches disappear much more quickly than poverty.

Precaution Run Mad

ANERVOUS contemporary fears greatly that the city will be deprived of home rule by the constitutional amendment permitting the increase of the city's borrowing capacity to 10 per cent of the assessed valuation.

Lies—A Chief Munition of War

LIES constitute one of the most important munitions of war. They nurture hate. Each national must be made to believe that his adversary is inhuman, barbarous, murderous wretches.

Dodging Political Eclipse in Chicago

MORE rising political suns have gone down in eclipse because of rum than for any other reason. When a man desires of making and keeping friends was asked to have a drink he was afraid to refuse, and pretty soon drink had him.

A Bale a Shot

WHEN the Queen Elizabeth shoots one of her big guns 400 pounds of cotton disappear from the face of the earth. A bale a shot is approximately the rule. This has not yet exerted any very great effect on the cotton market; but the cheapness of the staple has resulted in an extension of its use.

Crooked Politics in Court

IF COLONEL ROOSEVELT libeled William Barnes when he called him a bipartisan boss, joined in an alliance between crooked business and crooked politics fighting to maintain corrupt and machine government, then the Colonel is not the only man in New York who has libeled Barnes.

straight. If he can prove it to the satisfaction of a jury of plain citizens of Onondaga County, the nation at large will be delighted to learn that the grandson of Thurlow Weed is an angel of light and not an expert in the game of politics as it is played in Albany and in New York in these exceedingly degenerate days.

Party or Barrel?

CERTAIN Republican leaders sold out to the liquor industry last fall. They promised it immunity and a clear field in return for money and support at the polls. Of all the important Republican candidates the Governor alone repudiated this infamous alliance.

Female Suffrage a Safety Valve

CONVERSATIONS on trolley cars are for all ears. "When the war is over," remarked a local politician, "there will be an influx of foreigners to this country and we'll have them all voting the straight ticket within a year."

Germans Lack Numbers

The theory of Belloc, sustained by much evidence, is that the Germans now lack the numbers sufficient to maintain a reserve equal to that of the Allies at all points. Thus, when the French made their great attack in the Champagne in February and March, German troops were presently found here which had been before the British on the La Bassee a few days earlier.

'Come Over, Billy Sunday, and Help Us!'

FROM England comes the Macedonian cry, "Come over, Billy Sunday, and help us." Yet there are men who say that the glory of oratory has departed and the power of it is no more.

Common Sense on the Full Crew Question

THE overwhelming majority by which the House passed the full crew repeal bill does credit to the sound sense of the legislators. The bill, instead of ordering the railroad companies to employ a specific number of men on each train, empowers the Public Service Commission to regulate the number of men to be employed.

Who is the Oldest Living Person in the World?

A possible answer was given two years ago in the annual report of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. At that time Wah-ha-gun-ta, Chief Firemaker of the Blackfoot Indians, was reported to be 131 years old.

THE SOUL OF THE CITY

Cities have souls, says a well-known writer—that is, cities that amount to much more—and thus the writer goes on to say: "What is the great essential of a city with a soul? It is a citizen with a soul—hundreds of thousands of him—a soul above mere receptivity, self-seeking and accumulation; a citizen who reflects upon what he can put into his city, not upon what he can get out of it."

AN INDIAN HOLDS THE AGE RECORD

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LESSONS IN KILLING

The warring factions in Mexico have only a comparatively small nucleus of bad men in their ranks. The bulk of these so-called armies have been recruited with peons and the sons of peons, who in the beginning were herded like goats.

GRANT'S POLICY SEEN IN ALLIES' CAMPAIGN

Battles in Western Theatre of War Indicate Intention of Wearing Down Germany by "Attrition," Expert Declares.

By FRANK H. SIMONDS

EARLY in the war there was attributed to General Joffre a statement which caught the fancy of the world, but at the time carried very little enlightenment. Asked if the French offensive had begun seriously he had replied, "No, I am just nibbling."

An examination of the actions in the Champagne, at Neuve Chapelle, has satisfied Joffre's critics, the most eminent of British war critics, that allied strategy in the west is now undertaking a policy of attrition, which every American must necessarily associate with the methods of the greatest of the generals of the North.

To be successful a policy of attrition presupposes a superiority of numbers with the general taking the offensive. This the French, with their British and Belgian allies, have. French official reports continue to place the German strength in the west at 47 corps, or substantially 2,000,000 men. But the strength of the French, Belgian and British, with the reserve formations and troops in the depots, cannot be less than 4,000,000, and is bound to grow as the British contingents arrive.

Again, and later, a violent French offensive having developed about the St. Mihiel salient and German reserves having been called up, new French offensives in Alsace and about Arras won material successes. All this tends to support the Belloc theory, the theory of British and French observers generally, that German reserves are inferior in number to the French and British, and to meet a local attack the Germans are thus compelled to weaken their whole battle front.

The theory of attrition, of Joffre's "nibbling," is disclosed to Belloc in the operations at Neuve Chapelle. First, there is an enormous and measurably secret concentration of artillery at the point selected for attack. Then a tremendous bombardment, which silences the opposing artillery and destroys the enemy's trenches. Under cover of this artillery and before the enemy has recovered from the storm there is a general advance, and the enemy's trenches are occupied and organized to resist a counter-attack.

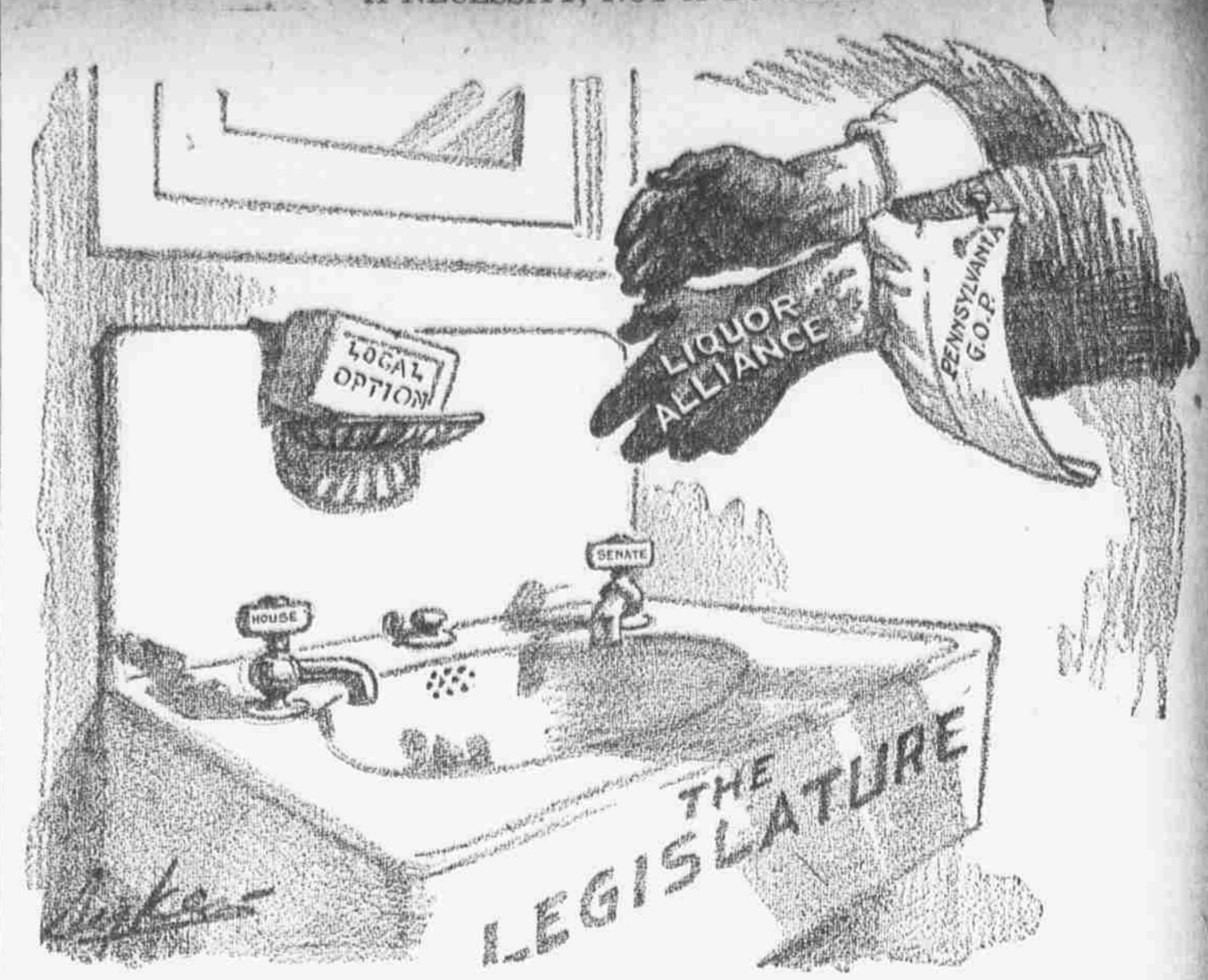
Counter-attacks Costly

So far the losses may be held to be fairly equal. But now the enemy, bringing up his reserves, endeavors to retake his old positions under fire of an artillery still superior and an infantry occupying his old trenches. Here he suffers very great losses, and his casualty list at the end of the fight exceeds that of the Allies. This was the case at Neuve Chapelle, if the British figures for German losses be accepted; that is, if it be believed, as Field Marshal Sir John French insists, that the German loss was nearly 20,000. The British was 13,000. But the German claim is that their own loss was but 6,000. To support the British figure is the "eyewitness" assertion that nearly 3,000 Germans were buried on the field after the fight.

At St. Mihiel, if the French bulletins are accepted, and they have the air of accuracy lacking in the German, because they give in detail the ground captured and the time of taking with circumstantial particulars, while the German statement is merely a general denial, the procedure was the same. The French seized the heights of Les Eparges after sharp fighting and then beat off a long series of counter-attacks which cost the Germans a terrible loss. This is again confirmatory of Belloc's theory and an example of Joffre's "nibbling."

Now, in the Civil War, Grant's policy of attrition in Virginia was supplemented after his army went south of the James by a second method. Week by week he stretched his lines eastward as his reinforcements came up. Lee, compelled to extend his lines

A NECESSITY, NOT A LUXURY



WATCHFUL WAITING IN APRIL, 1915

Startling Facts From Riddled Mexico for Complacent America. Famine and Pestilence Likely to Be Added to Chaos and Anarchy in the Bankrupt Country.

At Neuve Chapelle the British actually penetrated the German lines. Conceivably, to judge from British reports, had the reserves been well handled more than local advantages might have been gained. French success in the last few days in Alsace is another indication of the weakening of German resistance. But above all the failure of the Germans to take the offensive anywhere in the west in recent weeks seems to demonstrate that they lack the numbers for anything but defensive fighting, and even here are hard put to it, as all the recent struggles would indicate, to hold their own.

No General Offensive

If this interpretation of allied strategy be true, if the Germans in France are actually and permanently to remain inferior in numbers, then instead of any general allied offensive all along the line, the "spring drive" so much advertised, what is to be expected is a long series of "nibbles," of operations wholly similar to those in Champagne, in Flanders, in Lorraine and in Alsace. So long as allied losses do not exceed German, the cost to the Germans will be greater proportionately, and the time must come when they will have to retire to shorter lines, presumably behind the Meuse and the Scheldt.

Meantime the immediate effect of this strategy is to pin down in their positions all the German troops in France, save the small reserves which are hurried from danger point to danger point, and there can be no shifting of army corps east and west in France or from France to the Russian front, as in the past. This, so far as it is possible to judge, has already happened.

Refugees in Texas

You will learn of tens of thousands of the submerged 85 per cent, who have been driven into the wilderness like so many bands of nomad Indians. Texas has given shelter to at least 100,000 refugees, and every little group of these that has crossed the Rio Grande had a tale of wantonness and barbarity to tell that should shock the sensibilities of the most case-hardened watchful waiter in the universe.

THE UNITED STATES THREATENED

There is a deeply rooted impression among exiled Mexicans nowadays that there is a deadlock in our cabinet over the Villa-Carranza row. The Villistas are confident that the President favors the "liberator" and his announced socialist sympathy for the submerged 85 per cent. The Carranzistas aver for their part that they have won our Premier, William Jennings Bryan, to their more respectable cause. Now that Huerta has come back to our shores, there is some trepidation in both camps for fear that he may explain away the slaying of Madero and obtain some sort of sovereign absolutism.

PERSEVERE

Make the best of everything, think the best of every one, hope the best for yourself, do as I have done—persevere.—George Stephenson.

EARLY SPRING IN IRELAND

Here's the lodge woman in her great cloak coming. And her white cap. What joy has touched the ash-man? On my word he's humming. A boy's song, like a boy! He quite forgets his cart. His donkey grazes—just where it likes the grass. The red-coat soldier, with his medal, raises his hat to all who pass; and the blue-jacket sailor—hear him whistle. Forgetting Ireland's ill; O, pleasant land—(who thinks of them or their ill?) Upon your happy hills. The world is out! Believe me, life can be a merry matter. And common folk polit, and all their birds of heaven one of a feather. And all their voices rhyme, they sing their merry songs, like one, together. In Pimrose time.

LESSONS IN KILLING

The warring factions in Mexico have only a comparatively small nucleus of bad men in their ranks. The bulk of these so-called armies have been recruited with peons and the sons of peons, who in the beginning were herded like goats. Deadly weapons were placed in their hands and they were instructed how to kill. It is a primitive impulse to kill as it is a primitive impulse to pillage and destroy. There is a joy and exaltation and romantic fascination in robbery and piracy. Every man who has been a boy realizes this, and if it were a custom under our modern processes of so-called civilization to provide our children with lethal weapons we would soon arrive at the same conditions of chaos, anarchy and bloodshed that now obtain pretty generally throughout Mexico.

LESSONS IN KILLING

Our press dispatches are constantly reporting revolutionary battles of one sort or another. The majority of these dispatches come out of Washington, and Washington gets them from the press agents of the various factions or from the scattered remnants of our consular service in Mexico, and these dispatches are censored over the wire by the leaders and officers of whatever particular band of marauders happens to be in command of that particular locality at the time. In the course of one day we will have three versions, each one contradictory of the other, of a single alleged engagement.

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