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PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1915.

The honors of conquest never depend wholly on military process or victory in battle.

Safety First Means Victory at Last

FOR all our talk of "just stands" and Balkanias, for all our superstition about the powers of the man who "never knows when he is beaten," retreat, quick retreat and determined retreat is the most valuable factor in modern military strategy.

That is a lesson the French learned long ago. Their whole military temper and military strategy is built on the expectation of meeting superior forces, retiring before them and finally leading them into a position in which they may be outmaneuvered.

The Teutons have never learned this virtue of retreat. Lemberg fell and half an army was captured because of this. Neither have they learned the companion lesson of evacuating a town that will be surrounded.

Russia, however, seems to follow France in tactics as in many other things. In every retreat except the trap of the Masurian Lakes the Grand Duke has left a lost field promptly, deserted cities like Lodz, Przemysl and Lemberg without a moment's hesitation.

Nashville Works Both Ways

LOGIC is apt to be just about what the disputants care to make it. The wish is father to the argument. The case of the Nashville City Commission is simple enough.

One of the officials has drafted; at least that is what another official and a large part of the public think. Ergo, says the enemy of commission government and the enemy of the short ballot, this "hobby" has failed.

Medicine as Morals

NO WONDER Doctor Melizer, of the Rockefeller Institute, is organizing and extending the Medical Brotherhood for the Furtherance of International Morality.

What other profession contributes nothing but good to warring mankind? Mechanical science furnishes newer and more terrible engines of death. Chemistry contributes not only explosives, but such horrors of modernity as poisonous gases.

An ordinary mortal might be tempted to forego some \$50,000,000 just for a normal, undisturbed wedding—if there are such things.

Slippers Outspaced

THEY say children outspaced some new slippers. The latest is the news that slippers are being made in the Government workshop for a mere 12,000,000 pairs were manufactured in this country during the

deal year, "A marked decrease over other reports." Manifestly, the effects of the "spare-the-rod" Montessori system are beginning to be felt.

How About It, Mr. Taxpayer?

IT is a big business you own, Mr. Taxpayer. It has a larger income than many nations. It is about to invest, not thousands, but millions of dollars.

You, Mr. Laboring Man, with your savings invested in a factory, would not tolerate your elected president sneaking in by night, dismantling the machinery and making off with the assets of the plant, would you?

Yet, Mr. Taxpayer and Laboring Man, you are a partner in the great business known as Philadelphia. The city Government is your property.

On the other hand, if you do care, what do you think of five or six "leaders" meandering off to the seashore and undertaking to dictate to you whom you must have as the manager of your business?

Think of the number of great big Philadelphians who by the management of their own business have proved their fitness to conduct so magnificent an enterprise as the city Government.

You, Mr. Taxpayer, and the vast majority of men like you in Philadelphia, are Republicans. You want to vote the Republican ticket.

There is the primary. In it and not in an Atlantic City hotel will the Republican candidate be selected.

Think it over, Mr. Taxpayer, and consider if it is not about time for you to be making some plans of your own to assure the proper management of your business for the next four years.

Wages will be worn very full this fall.

The Berlin students are the ones who take the "s" out of "shoot."

"Peace" never was very prominent in the Irish vocabulary of Sir Edward Carson.

The naval invention board is a good thing, but it may be well to have a navy also.

There seem to be too many dreadnoughts and too few French seventy-fives at the Dardanelles.

A nation cannot buy peace any more than a victim can get rid of a blackmailer by meeting his demands the first time.

The State executives are making ready for their summer junket. But the House of Governors happens to be worth the money.

A point which seems to have escaped the Kaiser's attention is that you can't win the respect and sympathy of the world by shooting it to pieces.

Italy's policy of refusing passports until reservist-relatives enlist suggests that she would make it "No admission, no tickets," if she ever went into competition with the Chinese.

How pleasant to read about the success of cold tests on a new dye and the prospective jump in hatery prices as the result of drought shortages—all in the same day's news!

CONVENTION HALLS IN OTHER CITIES

The Middle West and the Pacific Slope Have Made Adequate Provision for Great Gatherings, While Philadelphia Lags Behind.

By EDWARD R. BUSHNELL.

PHILADELPHIA isn't the only city in the United States to struggle with the convention hall problem. Virtually every city of any size has wrestled with it in one form or another.

That is what all Philadelphia, minus some councilmanic obstructionists, wants to do, build a convention hall to be owned by the city and to build it at once.

In the meantime the city suffers. Members of the Chamber of Commerce, representing the business intelligence of the community, have figured that at the lowest estimate Philadelphia merchants are losing \$10,000,000 every year that the project is held up.

But the Chamber of Commerce is undaunted. Believing that Councils will be forced to act on the plans of the business men to construct this hall at once and in a central location, they are planning to bring here next summer not only the Republican National Convention but many other conventions as well.

Philadelphia business men have been deeply impressed with what rival cities have done to attract conventions. But it wants to outdo them. And if the plans which the Chamber of Commerce has endorsed become a reality this city will have the finest convention hall in America.

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

A Reader Prescribes for International Peace—On the Trail of "The Purple Cow"—Information Wanted.

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—The present tremendous struggle should bring freedom and peace to the world for all time.

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—St. George Bolton in the EVENING LEDGER last night refers to Gelett Burgess' "Purple Cow," which he characterizes as the worst satire on France and Frenchness that was ever compacted into four lines.

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—In Samuel Harris' article on "The Unmilitarized Vacationist," in the EVENING LEDGER of Friday, he attributes to Horace Greeley the famous remark concerning the reputation of people's payments that "the only way to resume it is to resume." Now I always understood that the originator of that remark was the late John Sherman, of Ohio, and that he made it in the course of a debate in Congress after the close of the Civil War.

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir—I have seen something in your paper about the St. Louis Convention of the American War, George Poinsette. Is he an American or an Italian? They say that his grandfather died in the American and Mexican wars. I am not sure if it is right or not.

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the entire auditorium is used. Whenever Denver has an opportunity to entertain a national political convention or give it a cause that will advertise the city no rental fee is charged.

The twin cities of Minnesota, St. Paul and Minneapolis, handled the situation a little differently. Both have auditoriums, but only St. Paul's has facilities for a national political convention.

The other cities of the Middle West have been wide awake, too. Kansas City was one of the first to show the country something in the business of building convention halls.

Chicago has the Coliseum, which is big enough to house the most important conventions in addition to the spacious auditorium, Cincinnati has to use the Music Hall, which has a seating capacity of only 3650.

West is Ahead of the East. On the Pacific coast, Los Angeles has three splendid auditoriums, and can take care of conventions of virtually any size.

There are no municipally owned convention halls in the big cities of the East. Madison Square Garden, while not owned by the city, is available for nearly everything that will advertise New York.

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"THE NATIONS' AIRY NAVIES"

Splendid Record of Achievement of the Newest Weapon of Modern Warfare—Guardian Angels of the Air Spy Out the Land and Prevent Surprise Attacks.

THE astounding development of the aeroplane, both for scouting purposes and as an offensive weapon, is one of the most striking features of the first year of the great war.

Military men, as a result of the year's lessons, consider an army not equipped with aeroplanes as absolutely at the mercy of a similar force using air scouts. It is a blind man fighting a man who can see.

At the beginning of the war all the principal combatants had big air fleets, those in France and Germany having been paid for largely by popular subscription, because sufficient funds were not available in the usual way for this untried weapon.

But the air forces of a year ago were insignificant compared with those of today. No figures are, of course, given out. But it was officially stated several months ago that Great Britain had increased her aeroplanes tenfold, and there is talk in London of raising Germany with a division of 10,000 flying machines.

Larger aeroplanes are coming into use. Great Britain is following the Russian Sikorsky idea in constructing giant machines capable of carrying 20 men, while Germany is said to be about to bring forth a triple-decked machine armed with four machine guns and a revolving cannon.

The great, costly Zeppelin dirigibles, while proving of some utility, have been thrown into the shade by the cheap, quickly built biplane. The latter has proved superior to the monoplane, because steeper, and the military air pilot cannot choose his breeze.

According to the German account, the war opened with a flight of French aeroplanes over certain German towns, on which bombs were dropped prior to a declaration of war. This is denied by the French. However it may be, the new military arm was not long in demonstrating its worth.

The Germans began to correct the fire of their batteries with aeroplanes flying over the enemy's positions, and dropping smoke balls or streamers of tinsel as signals. While the Germans had prepared for this feat, the Allies were not long in imitating their example.

Aeroplanes raided railway junctions, fortified towns and encampments, dropping explosive bombs which often did great damage. On these raids many civilians suffered. Special aeroplane squadrons were organized to protect Paris from visiting airmen, and these were finally successful in checking German activity along this line.

The French brought out a new weapon in sheaves of short steel arrows, which, dropped from the height of half a mile, would easily pierce a man from head to foot. The Germans imitated these arrows in a few weeks, marking on them, "Invented in France, but made in Germany."

Every German column on the great march into France was accompanied by its aeroplane flying overhead, like a guardian angel. The Germans undoubtedly had a superiority over the Allies in the air at the beginning of the war. Especially was this true in the Eastern theatre of war, where many Russian reverses were attributed by the Germans to their enemy's lack of aeroplanes or to ineptitude in their use.

While single aeroplanes were the rule in the early months of the war, the British and French are now sending out squadrons to accomplish important work. Such air fleets attacked the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshaven, on Lake Constance, and the chemical works at Ludwigshaven. Accounts of damage done on these raids are conflicting. The French asserted that large fires had been caused.

On June 15 23 Allied aeroplanes dropped 120 bombs on Karlsruhe, capital of Baden, killing 11 persons and wounding many others. The French stated officially that this raid was made "in retaliation for the bombardment by the Germans of French and English open towns." That this reprisal was

unwise, whether justified, was proved by the answer of the Germans, a Zeppelin raid on the English coast towns, which resulted in the death of 16 persons and probably did vastly more havoc than the Karlsruhe raid.

This was not the first Zeppelin raid that had resulted in the killing of civilians. In the siege of Antwerp, at the beginning of October, a giant gas bag had spread terror and destruction by passing over the city in the night dropping enormous high explosive bombs, which rent buildings to bits and killed many persons. Zeppelins also attacked Paris several times, and other French cities suffered. In the general opinion of critics, however, the military effect of the Zeppelin raids was nil.

The first Zeppelin raid on England, Germany's arch enemy, took place January 16. Six dirigibles attacked nine different towns, killing five persons and doing their principal damage in the city of Yarmouth.

The British soon shut down on all information concerning the routes of attacking aeroplanes or Zeppelins, giving out the scantiest reports.

The first German raid on London, which resulted in the death of several persons, caused the British Ambassador to Washington to call the attention of the American Government to the impossibility of defending the great city against attacks from the air, because missiles hurled at the assailants would fall back into the crowded city and do more damage to the inhabitants than to the Germans.

Some of the most daring feats of the war have been performed by airmen. When the Germans began to bombard Dunkirk with a great gun stationed 23 miles away a French aviator went out to locate it. Flying low, he proceeded 12 miles behind the German lines. A storm of shrapnel carried away part of his machine and gave the aviator himself a horrible wound. He noted, however, the great gun hidden in a deep ditch roofed over with concrete.

Despite the hurts of his machine and himself he managed to reach the Allied lines, where he made his report, and a few minutes later dropped dead, saying, "I am satisfied." The big gun was soon put out of commission.

The first aviator to bring down a Zeppelin was Lieutenant Warneford, a white British Indian. Happening upon a hostile dirigible while scouting in Belgium, he dropped a bomb on it by skillful maneuvering. The explosion which followed caused his aeroplane to turn over twice in the air, but he regained control before landing. The wrecked Zeppelin fell on a convent. Warneford managed to start his engine again and get to the British lines, but a few days later he was killed, with an American correspondent while trying some fancy flying.

Italy's campaign against Austria opened with air raids on both sides. Rome reported that the enemy arsenal at Pola was almost entirely destroyed by bombs dropped from an Italian dirigible, and Austrian aviators dropped explosives aimed at points of military importance in Venice, several persons being injured.

When the German fortified port of Tsing Tao in China was about to fall a German aviator rose above the Japanese and flew a great distance into the interior of China. He later reached the coast, managed to embark in disguise, and, passing through the United States, is believed to have entered Germany in safety.

WAR AND COTTON

One Year's Depression Cannot Offset a Decade of Prosperity.

From the Review of Reviews. With a supply of cotton worth 2,000,000 bales less than that of the past year in prospect, the Southern cotton belt fronts a European situation more acute, perhaps, than that of August 1, 1914, but having now the quality of certainty in one direction that it did not then have.

More foreign buyers of Southern cotton are at war, but it is obvious that a considerable quantity of cotton that otherwise would not have been sold because of partial or complete paralysis of mill operations in Europe has been bought for use in the manufacture of explosives and other articles of wholesale demand in war.

Cotton from that use in the ending of the war will tend to revive the normal demand, if not to increase it.

Other facts reduce the weight of considerations grounded in the war. There have been other years of lean prices. Between 1901 and 1909 the average annual price per pound, New York, for middling upland cotton, fell from 5 cents a pound, the 1909-10 price, with the seed of the commercial crop of 1908-9 brought \$16,000,000 less than the \$48,000,000 paid for the crop of 1909-10 bales of 1909-10, and the average annual price per bale, with seed, in the nine years was only \$41.25 in an aggregate value of \$212,000,000 for 80,250,000 bales.

On the other hand, in the nine years, 1906-14, the average annual price per pound was in no year less than 10 cents, and the aggregate value of 117,225,000 bales of the nine crops, with seed, was \$5,935,000,000, or an average of \$50.14 per bale. Nearly \$600,000,000 a year brought into the cotton belt in payment for the cotton crop was a decided contribution, direct and indirect, to the increase in the tangible wealth of the 11 States at the average rate of about \$1,967,000,000 a year, the census estimate of the true value of property in those States showing an increase between 1904 and 1913 from \$1,551,762,000 to \$2,747,827,000. Of the aggregate in the latter year \$1,818,650,000, or nearly 66 per cent, represented the value of real estate and improvements, live stock and farm machinery.

Again, it is well to bear in mind the volume of total production in the 11 States and the value of the agricultural production was not less than \$1,790,000,000, of which \$1,000,000,000 represented cotton and its seed, the value of the mineral output was \$25,000,000 and the value of forest products was \$48,000,000, a total value of primary products of \$1,863,000,000, while the value of manufactures into which such products entered was not less than \$1,500,000,000. Of this total \$1,545,000,000 value of primary and ultimate products the value of cotton and its seed was less than 2 per cent.

One year of loss on the cotton crop cannot outweigh the essential benefits of conditions increasing in 10 years property values by nearly \$2,000,000,000. Nor can it weaken sentimentality about its production in normal years nearly \$2,000,000,000 in value based upon natural resources in abundance, with seed underlying \$2,000,000,000 acre

in several States of the 11, in forests covering 205,000,000 acres and in farms embracing 39,000,000 acres, of which only 116,120,000 are at present improved.

THE NATIONAL POINT OF VIEW. So Becker, a good deal of a man in spite of his crimes, passes, and his widow is left destitute and carrying a burden of disgrace. All will pity her.—Baltimore Sun.

There will never be order in Mexico until force compels it. Within no such force exists or is likely to exist. It must therefore come from without.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The sinking of the Eastland was avoidable. It scarcely happened by chance. Given the conditions, the disaster was inevitable, but the conditions were under man's full control.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Possibly this Government welcomes the Halibut row as an opportunity to demonstrate to Mexico what may happen there if conditions south of the Rio Grande do not improve.—Washington Star.

Perhaps John Wanamaker resigned the chairmanship of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Security League in order to devote all his time to raising that hundred billion dollars with which to buy Belgium.—Indianapolis News.

THE SUMMER SKY. The shining Dipper swings Above my garden gate, And in the centre of the blue A gold rosette, Arcturus, hangs. While Vega dances in the east With four attendants trail. To fields beyond the west To dream fields far away!

The sun's hot flames pale and die, And evening spreads her dusky wing; Now printed on the western sky Are sparrows and a silver ring.—Chicago Tribune.

AMUSEMENTS. B. F. KEITH'S THEATRE. CHESTNUT AND TWELFTH STREETS. "THE MEISTERINGERS."

NEW SCENIC SPECTACLE, "THE FLAME STATION." BANGROFF & "GIBBY." BAYMOND CAVENISH, RYAN, & "GALIBURD." AND OTHER FEATURES. Try a Ketcher at the Bar.

THE MARKET. ABOVE HIGH. 11 A. M. TO 11:30 P. M. Stanley Mary Pickford IN TRAIL.

STONKS. OLIVEA, DEWALVA, A. CO., 107 N. 11TH ST. HERRMAN, SCHMIDT & CO., 107 N. 11TH ST. LOUIS LEO, 107 N. 11TH ST.

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