

FIRST THRILL OF GREAT WAR

The Touch of Steel on August 2, 1914, Gave Us a Tingle Which Has Since Died Out

OF THE two years of war's emotions which we now can pass in review, no sense is more difficult to recapture than the very first—the swift, sudden thrill of adventure which came over us two years ago today.

They are hard because after the midnight misery of these two years we are not willing to confess how joyously we met the first onset of arms.

The Joy of Battle

The time was to come when the air we breathed was stifling with gunpowder, and later still was acrid with the seas which swept over the Lusitania's dead.

We had been prepared for complications the minute Germany and Russia came in, and it was on the second of August that we knew for fair that they were in.

We did not order our sympathies, but we can separate them now. They were with Germany against Russia and with France against the world.

Of two things we were firmly convinced. That Russia would be snappish, broken and defeated as she was, or seemed to be, by Japan, and that France would fight gallantly but unavailingly against the superior German arms.

From that day dates the distrust of England, which can be discovered under any number of layers of Entente sympathy.

It was the time before the rainbow-colored books appeared justifying this or that. It was the time when we had hoped greatly that Sir Edward Grey might stop the whole thing.

We looked back at it now. Is it shameful to confess that we did not care? Perhaps it is, but our indifference to the disasters of others was not altogether that of self-certainty.

FINDING THE RANGE



MILLIONAIRE FOUND DEAD IN BED

Although His Lawyer Was Convicted of Murdering William Marsh Rice and Then Pardoned, the Cause of His Death Is Still Unexplained

By JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS

IN THE autumn of 1900 William Marsh Rice, a millionaire Texan, 55 years of age, lay ill in New York city. He was attended by his regular physician, Dr. Walker Curry, a practitioner in high standing.

Medical Experts Disagree

Patrick was brought to trial for the murder. Coroner's Physician Donnelly and Dr. Hamilton K. Williams, who had assisted with the autopsy, went on the stand and swore that only the vapor of chloroform could have produced the effects noted in the lungs.

The Valet in the Case

The morning of the old millionaire's death Patrick appeared at the bank of S. M. Swinson & Sons, New York, and presented several large checks purporting to have been signed by Rice.

Tom Daly's Column

HEIMWAERTS Good luck to you, Deutschland! May your journey's end be all your gallantry deserves!

WHEN we were in Portland, Me., the other day we saw and heard one of the great organs of the world. It is the Kotschmar Memorial Organ, installed in the auditorium of the new Portland City Hall.

Editorials in the T. R. newspapers on the speech of acceptance yesterday morning reminded us somehow of dear old Jim Riley and his poem about the "Squidgy-cumaques 'at swaller themselves."



H. Shaner endeavors to manage the Ledger Athletic Association. He has his own troubles. Bill Cooper is one of his pitchers. Bill is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

OUR most distinguished contrib abroad, Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, Minister to Denmark, sends us this sonnet written on the occasion of the Shakespeare celebration at the Castle of Kronborg, Elsinore.

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Ships fear this fortress—peaceful ripples love The strand where English James was wont to pace.

Handing It to the Neighbors (Ad in Humeville Delaware Valley Advance.) Leonard K. Cox, a citizen of the Borough of Yardley, wish to notify the residents of said borough that I am attending to my own business, and that it is none of your business and that I require the services of any resident to attend to any of my personal affairs I will so notify them.

EDUCATION INCOMPLETE The fellow who brags of his college And all his great learning's a bore, The man who is proud of his "knowledge" Is badly in need of some more.

Go Down Among the Flowers Will you not go down among them? Among those sweet wing things whose new courage, sprung from the earth with the deep color of heaven upon it, is starting up in strength of godly spire; and whose party, washed from the dust, is opening, bud by bud, into the flower of promise; and still they turn to you and for you, "Oh, Larkspur! listen! I hear, I hear, I hear!" and the Lily whispers— "I wait, I wait, I wait!"—John Ruskin (Sesame and Lilies) 1819.

I work and sweat, my clothes all wet; For goodness sake, I'd be I cannot go where cool winds blow— Such joy is not my lot.

JOHN MAN wanted for outside work, who can row a boat and make himself generally useful and reliable, summer season, at Yonkers River, N. J. Apply this evening, etc. Where is the young man to row the boat on the gentleman's residence? In the gutters? G. W. D.

Amputate Ankles Close to Ears Sir—One of our children came in the other day, crasy with the heat, and asked me if I wouldn't please prepare for dinner: The child's name was...

ANXIOUS MOTHER, I have a question to ask you, and I am sure you will be able to help me. My child is very anxious about his school work, and I am not sure how to help him.

Evening Ledger

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The President's acceptance speech will not be as long as Mr. Hughes'. In the words of the dime novel, little remains to be said.

The ladies who play golf on the Cobble Creek course ought to know that high heels are as much out of place there as sport shoes in a ballroom.

Provost Smith evidently struck fire when he said the University needed \$20,000,000. The Alumni Association is planning to raise a quarter of it.

Philadelphia is building one new garage for every ten new houses. Now that a touring car can be bought for \$360 it is likely that we shall build ten new garages for every single new house.

A Spanish woman crops up in the news as the villain in a bandit raid. It is only a few days since the Spanish uncle fraud worked right here in Philadelphia.

Roland Morris admits that the historical Democratic tariff position was wrong. The country had condemned it so many times that the wonder is that he did not discover this long ago.

A phenomenon to which we are not quite reconciled is the unanimity of opinion among the Allies that they will win the war.

Are there any storage houses for munitions in or near Philadelphia? Are they properly guarded against accident or intention to destroy? Is every safeguard for the city being taken? Is the law being scrupulously observed?

The Deutschland starts on her hazardous voyage home with nothing but good wishes. She has stayed long enough in our port to make us feel friendly toward her. We wish to see her again, and many of her fellows. We cannot forget, on command, that her stepsisters have strewn the seas with our dead.

By a singular oversight nothing appeared in the papers concerning the fall of Verdun, which took place yesterday. The American press is so dominated by the Entente that it refused to take the Crown Prince's word for it.

The Senate caucus did well to cut off all extraneous amendments from the child labor bill. The fate of that bill must be decided definitely on its own merits, and skillful as politicians may be they are not justified in placing the immigration bill with its intolerable literacy test in the same offering for the President's signature.

The explosion in Jersey City on Saturday night was caused by the usual demand that a law be passed to make such things impossible in the future, as though explosions could be prevented by a few words printed on a piece of paper.

What is needed more than new statutes, is a proper realization of the risk in the business and the exercise of constant vigilance. They say that the explosion was caused by a fire in a large shed tied up to the pier where it had no right, and that the large vessel there because its owners did not want to pay a few of \$25 for insurance or to open or something of the kind. It will require an investigation

to discover the truth; but, assuming that there was no plot, there was carelessness and neglect somewhere or the thing could not have happened. The punishment of those responsible for the neglect will do more to prevent a repetition of the disaster than can be done by the passage of a whole volume of new laws.

SIDE-SWIPING THE COASTAL TRADE

THE Administration ship purchase bill, conceived by Mr. McAdoo under conditions which no longer exist, if they ever did exist, has been amended into a hybrid sort of thing which has fangs without venom and is likely to prove as useless as it is unnecessary.

It has offered the Democrats, however, an opportunity to achieve by cunning a thing which they have been endeavoring for years, directly or indirectly, to accomplish. There is a law which prohibits any ships except those built in America from engaging in the coastal trade.

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Unless the Democratic party is to convict itself of bad faith, or even of double dealing, it must join with the Republicans in excluding from the pending bill this wholly indefensible and inexcusable clause. The President could not, we believe, knowingly indorse it otherwise, nor should our local trade bodies be backward in forwarding their prompt protests against this legislation, for its text is a cipher that spells ruin for the American marine and for American shipyards which have only just begun to thrive.

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HUGHES IS FOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE

MR. HUGHES has placed himself squarely in favor of woman suffrage. He has not dodged the issue as Mr. Wilson has done by saying that it is a matter for the States to settle. He has said that the Federal constitutional amendment should be passed by Congress, submitted to the States and ratified by them promptly.

This declaration will doubtless bring to his support all the ardent women voters in the Commonwealth where the right of suffrage has already been granted, and it should lead all the male voters who favor the reform to unite in his support in the States where women do not vote.

The declaration of Mr. Hughes in his telegram to Senator Sutherland is the kind of a statement that was expected from him. He does not believe in dodging the issues. He dodged none in his admirable speech of acceptance, and he will face the music when he begins his campaign on the stump. If the country does not know now where he stands on all the vital questions it will know before the voting begins.