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It is asserted on the highest authority that diplomatic relations with oysters will be broken off in five days.

We can wave the flag, but in doing so we need not waive our rights to watch suspicious individuals lurking about the treasury at Harrisburg.

It keeps us busy wondering at what particular gate our distinguished foreign visitors will knock. Balfour and his party selected a side door at Vancorbora, and now the French commissioners sail right up the Potomac to the main entrance.

The action of certain Kansas patriots in going barefoot as a measure of war economy makes us wonder whether it is nobler for the rest of us to volunteer along that line or to wait until the mounting cost of leather has conscripted the whole nation into shoelessness.

The rumor that an imperial family council in Berlin has urged the Kaiser to abdicate would be more impressive if we didn't feel sure that a domestic parody of this kind would do no more than merely substitute one impossible Hohenzollern for another as the ruler of Germany.

Senator Vane and the citizens' narcotic committee have come to an agreement on the drug bill, and action is promised. A year and a half of disinterested toil has ended in the formulation of what is declared to be a model bill. There can be only one reason to vote against it—alliance with the wealthy leaders of the "dope syndicate."

Already a revolution has been effected in America by the war in the total disappearance of the old party lines. When a Republican is the President's spokesman for army selection, opposed by Speaker Clark and the Democratic chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, there is no longer any meaning in the words "Democratic" and "Republican."

Senator La Follette has dealt some sturdy blows to American pride in consistently advocating every possible evasion of our duty in the crisis of civilization. But no more false and humiliating doctrine could be announced than his present theory that all Americans are born slackers and that every one who possibly can find an excuse to keep out of uniform will do so.

Characterizing as "absurd" the report that an American dreadnought had captured a German U-boat, a naval officer added, "Battleships do not nowadays monkey around submarines." But, as we seem to recall instances of submarines occasionally "monkeying" around battleships, the silliness of finding these two types of war craft together does not appear quite so obvious after all.

Marshal Joffre, called upon in his old age to conduct the most perilous and hazardous retreat in history, which ended in the victory of the Marne, receives today from all Americans as warm a welcome as if the spirit of Lafayette had taken human form to visit our shores for a third time. The master strategist has been a dominant figure at a dozen great military conferences during the war and will give invaluable information to our officers. But to the people this must be a sealed book. To them he comes as love of country personified. He, like Garibaldi, is that rare, fortunate man who can truly be called "a walking flag."

At first glance it seems strange that our entry into the war could affect naval developments in the Baltic, and yet our patrol duties along our seaboard and the consequent release of the British and French squadrons here may have a very material influence on Germany's reported plan to attack Riga from the sea. It is conceivably part of Teuton strategy to lure Entente war craft into a battle in the Baltic. This would naturally weaken British's North Sea fleet and lay it open to a blow from a German armada emerging from the western end of the Kiel Canal. But, with our own navy service off her hands, Germany would have a much larger home base for her fleet, and it is not unlikely that she would be able to chase the British and French squadrons at the same time.

other side of Denmark. Thus even at the outset of our war every step we take may have its effect in certain ways not immediately obvious.

**'A TRUNKFUL OF MISTAKES'**

NO NATION entering a fray was ever armed with so many practical warnings against error as is the United States. In the luggage of the Balfour commission there is a trunkful of documents recording British mistakes. Failure on the part of Washington authorities to heed these blunders would be nothing short of criminal.

Under ordinary circumstances a belligerent is entitled to certain privileges of "muddling through." But America's situation in the war is not ordinary. It is the most exceptional in history. England muddled with mislaid volunteering, France muddled with defective equipment and outmoded trust in the ability of fortified places to withstand attacks of the new, gigantic, yet fairly mobile, artillery, we can forgive immediately forgone when Maubeuge went suddenly crashing down.

All the Allies muddled through lack of intelligent co-operation in war strategy and through tardiness in organizing industrial resources. Doubtless the French commission as well as Balfour's brings its catalogue of fallacies.

At the outset of the Civil War we had no safe guide against misconceptions. The magnitude of the struggle and its far-reaching possibilities were all new to us. Both North and South learned bitter lessons through four years of cruel trial. Greek myth tells how Pandora opened the fateful box filled with all the errors of mankind. Ignorance of what the chest contained partly prompted her act. We are neither so guileless nor so helpless as she. We have the unprecedented right to lift the lid, examine minutely all the records of mistaken endeavor and then seal fast the strong-box so that none of the germs of incompetence are scattered among us.

**INEVITABLE CONFLICT**

LAST November the West, with the advantage of a somewhat greater remoteness than that which the East enjoyed, saw clearly enough that we had no cause for war. It voted against definitely facing the nation toward voluntary participation in the most frightful human calamity that modern history records. Black as were the atrocities of Germany, the West could see in them no more cause for war than we had had a score of times for crimes committed by Russia and Turkey against humanity. Ours was not the role of a swashbuckling giant to stride across the earth correcting evils wherever they appeared.

That was last November. In February Germany turned loose her submarines to prey indiscriminately upon the shipping of the world. This not only forced the United States to vindicate the policies enunciated by it in the Lusitania correspondence, but it did more. It compelled our Government to reach instantly a decision of the most momentous importance to the whole human race.

We may imagine the President's reasoning to have been very simple and very direct, perhaps as follows: "It is openly stated in Berlin that Germany will 'get' the United States so soon as her hands are free in Europe. There is grave danger that submarine activity may free Germany's hands by securing for her complete victory or virtual domination of Europe. In that case, we, although unprepared, would have to fight her alone. By throwing our support to the Allies now, we can assure the defeat of Germany, and thus assure peace to the United States for a long period to come. We have got to whip Germany sooner or later. We can do it better with than without help. Not only does the defense of our present rights compel us to fight, but the situation has actually become one of self-preservation. Democracy united will win; democracy divided may lose.

The West did not vote for war. It did not want war, nor did the country as a whole. But in February it ceased to be a question of what we wanted or did not want. Events with the sureness of fate sucked us into the whirlpool. We are in it because we had to be in. It is because we love peace that we must fight. It is because we have a President who can see further than his nose that we must fight.

**FIVE TOWNS**

LENS, Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon! Mere names of half-ruined towns, "railroad centers," if the ripped-up rails and ties which an enemy in retreat leaves behind him can still be called railroads, towns doomed to erasure so that no hut shall shelter so much as a squad of Allied soldiers—these are not much to win, and yet the names will stand out in the fortnight to come as the symbols of victory or defeat.

The fight has come to the suburbs of Lens and St. Quentin. There are a few weary miles to go to capture the others. Technical victory may be said to have been won by the Allies in the results already obtained. But it is not a technical success that lifts up the hearts of a people. Verdun captured, though at the cost of twice as many German casualties as there were French, would have been a great victory that would have thrilled all Middle Europe. Verdun saved, though the cost were twice what it was, is an imperishable triumph, an immortal and magic name, the Gettysburg of the war. Never since Verdun have the French faltered. Never since Verdun have the Germans fought with their old spirit.

**DISTRIBUTING THE COST OF WAR**

**Taxes on Cotton, Wool and Dogs Among Those Planned to Raise Needed Revenue**

CONGRESS has given the President power to conduct the war—the greatest financial power ever given at one time to any one ruler by any nation—and it expects to give him more power, power to spend billions, power to raise armies, power to enforce what in substance is martial law throughout the United States. There have been some misgivings about the tremendous power thus conferred upon the President, lest the spirit of autocracy might ultimately enthrall the people, but Congress has fallen in with what now appears to be the popular sentiment and has become resigned to the belief that prompt compliance with the President's representations of the needs of the hour is the surest and safest course to bring about a speedy and successful termination of the war.

**Taxes Follow Fast**

Taxes will now follow fast upon the heels of war. The President must be backed by men and money, and the thought prevails that if money in sufficient quantity is raised immediately the necessity for sending troops abroad may not be so insistent. Raising the money and lending it to the European Allies will at least strengthen them until American soldiers can be properly trained and equipped for work in the field. The loan bills have passed, the problem of taxation arises and the first step will be to raise upward of \$1,500,000,000 by direct taxes to meet in part the \$2,000,000,000 of certificates of indebtedness authorized for pressing war demands. The Secretary of the Treasury has submitted certain suggestions to the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which will proceed at once to frame a bill putting these and other suggestions into effect. As was to be expected, the income tax and the excess profits tax are to be increased. Stamp taxes and a variety of other sources, from glucose to gasoline, are to be tapped. Automobiles, musical instruments and theatre tickets are not to escape. Liquor and tobacco, transportation and freight receipts are to be included. Most significant of the Secretary's suggestions, however, are those relating to imports. Revenue is to be raised upon hides, wool, crude rubber, cotton and many other articles, some of which have been conspicuous on the Democratic free list. The proposed tax on coffee and tea is new. These household commodities have enjoyed a long period of exemption in tariff measures.

**"The Other Fellow" Preferred**

The Secretary's recommendations, which are not necessarily final, have produced an avalanche of protest. Just as there are plenty of hints from enthusiastic patriots that their "wives' relatives" should enlist, so there is no limit to the commercial patriots who are now coming forward to explain why they ought not to be taxed and why some "other fellow" should be. The out-and-out army man favors conscription as a scientific military proposition. He is cold-blooded about it, because he knows the men are needed in the service. The national guardsman, *vis a vis* a rifle, favors conscription, because it is not a favored deal for him to make a sacrifice as a volunteer while able-bodied men remain behind to reap the profits of war or to look after the widows and orphans. In the matter of taxes, business men are beginning to realize that they must be met, only some of them are insisting that they should be universal and should be passed on down the line with no favorites, just as conscription is expected to play no favorites with men. There are a few large producers who are not saying much, including the cotton raiser and the grain grower. Each of these has been doing very well on exports, but is rather inclined to put the taxes on the big industries not directly allied to the farm. Moreover, the "constitution forbids a tax on exports, so that cotton and grain going out of the country will be exempted from the tax in some other way than through the custom house, if reached at all.

**Some Stray Tax Suggestions**

While there is no present prospect of a tariff bill, the tax is likely to figure in the tax debate. The Treasury Secretary's recommendations are of themselves sufficient to start something on this line. Take wool, for instance. It has always been a good tax, but it has been subjected to tariff. Under the protective system it is good for approximately \$10,000,000 per annum, which is the amount the Secretary thinks we could now raise on raw wool imports. Republicans will probably not object to placing wool back on the dutiable list, from which it was taken by the Underwood law. The climate of Australia is more favorable for raising wool than the climate of Montana, and it can be raised there less expensively, so that the American wool-grower would be benefited by a duty on raw wool, even if the duty should be responsible for it. The wool question, however, has induced many side suggestions, one of which is that if the United States is to compete fairly with England for the wool trade it will be necessary to impose a tax on dogs. Dogs are the natural enemies of sheep and have so discouraged American farmers that the sheep industry has been practically ruined. The dog tax may be regarded as frivolous for the moment, but sheep herders do not so regard it, since many of them are outspoken in the belief that the dog is as responsible to the sheep industry as is free trade itself. A dog tax in war times comes along in better fashion, perhaps, than that other suggestion that bachelors shall be shot conscripted for the service, since to remain in the single state is a direct challenge to civilization.

**Cotton Could Help**

One often hears of cotton as a like source of revenue, but ever and anon the constitutional question of the export tax. Granted that no export tax can be levied on cotton going out of the country, still cotton is easily traced in the bale, and it is reported that the cotton has never been more profitable than during the last year. Relatively, cotton is as important in war as wool or munitions, and many persons believe that cotton ought to bear a fairer share of taxes than it does. The Secretary of the Treasury anticipates about \$4,500,000 of revenue from a levy of two cents a pound on foreign cotton coming into the United States, but he makes no suggestion about American cotton, which is one of the greatest of our monopolies. The average production in the United States in recent years has been about 13,000,000 bales of more than 50 pounds each. With cotton selling at about twenty cents a pound, it will be seen at once how productive a field cotton presents for war-tax purposes. It is only fair to say, however, that the proposal to tax cotton before it reaches the point of export comes only from folk apart from the cotton States. It would not meet with approval where the dominant party is the "freckles" community in the situation.

**Tom Daly's Column**

**SPRING IN THE BLOOD**  
 If, when spring is in the blood  
 ('Tis of Irish blood I'm speakin'),  
 All the peace o' bachelorhood  
 Glad ye'd be to be forsakin'  
 For the hope o' joy that lies  
 In a pair o' sparklin' eyes  
 Wishful to possess ye,  
 Take your chance o' paradise  
 An' heaven bless ye!

If, when spring is in the blood,  
 Other appetites awaken  
 An' ye feel a throb that could,  
 Maybe, bear a little akin'  
 If to clear your throat o' dust  
 Mountain dew will ease ye, just—  
 Sure, I'd never chide ye  
 Take your tippie if ye must  
 An' wisdom guide ye!

If, when spring is in the blood,  
 Weary on your toll, ye're wakin'  
 You could wander through the wood  
 Where the other lads are fishin';  
 If such sport as ye could know  
 Where the Irish rivers flow  
 Waters here can lead ye,  
 Seize your day of pleasure; go,  
 An' luck attend ye!

If, when spring is in the blood,  
 Playboy pranks nor eyes o' woman  
 Stir your heart strings as they should,  
 Faith, ye're somethin' less than human!  
 What ye need's another birth;  
 Though, indeed, 'twould not be worth  
 All the trouble to remake ye.  
 Fit for neither heaven nor earth,  
 The devil take ye!

And speaking of fishing, as many of our fellow workers are, rather wistfully, these days, there is rare news in Robert H. Dodd's clearance sale catalog. A set of the first five editions of Isaac Walton his book, "The Compleat Angler," is offered for sale. Apart from the reminder that this work, born before the day of the best seller, had the uncommon achievement of five editions in the twenty-three years between 1653 and 1676, we read this note, which should arrest the fisherman on his way to the fishing-tackle shop: "Uniformly inclosed in fine brown levant morocco slender cases, forming altogether a most attractive set of the first five editions of this classic at a moderate price. Reduced from \$4500 to \$3600."

**THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE**

**A Request for the Removal of Bismarck's Statue—A Defense of Editorial Writers**

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum and the views of our correspondents. Letters must be signed by the name and address of the writer, and necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

**BISMARCK'S STATUE**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:  
 Sir—For years before the declaration of war on the Imperial German Government by the United States, and even now, the statue of Count Otto Bismarck, the Imperial Chancellor of the German Government, is situated in front of what was a few years ago "The Riverside Mansion," on Ridge avenue, between Manayunk and the Falls of the Schuylkill.

Now that our Government has broken off all relations with the German Government and is on a war footing we feel that the statue of this man, who did nothing for the United States or for humanity, but who worked only for the establishment of "Prussian militarism," which is so destructive to all mankind, should be at once removed by true and loyal Americans to prove that we cannot tolerate anybody or anything that is contrary to our democratic ideals.

**THREE UNITED STATES CITIZENS OF POLISH DESCENT.**  
 Philadelphia, April 23.

**ENLISTMENT OF NEWSPAPERMEN**  
 To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:  
 Sir—When I was a boy I learned an epigram which ran, "You in your corner and I in mine." I think that should answer the friendly critics who are asking why editorial writers have not enlisted. Perhaps these critics are not aware that beneath the rule of men entirely great. The pen is mightier than the sword.

We are not living in the Middle Ages (although some of the atrocities of our enemies belong to that era), and the people demand knowledge of current events. Editorial writers mold the public sentiment. The power of the press is the greatest force in the world. Reporters and editorial writers are the men who are preaching preparedness and patriotism today. Silence and liberty cannot exist together. Our Government cannot wage war and keep the people in ignorance of the facts. No, the newspapers must spread the message unto the entire country. Well can the journalist say, "This is my task. In depths of unstarred night 'tis to keep  
 Faith on her lofty throne."

Let not those whose task is but to fight feel any resentment against the editorial writer. In after years those who have survived grim war will be counted among earth's chosen few; and those who fell will long be remembered. Years afterward will their graves be decorated with flags and a salute fired across their last earthly resting place at least once every year. But what of those who stayed at home, not as slackers, but to preach patriotism and courage, to assuage the anguish of a mother's broken heart with beautiful and loving eulogies of those who died for liberty and justice? In some almost unknown grave they rest, mourned by but a few, and no salute will be fired over their graves. Yet they were not afraid; they merely obeyed the Master's call, and instead of fighting with a sword they used a pen, and valiantly fought against jingoism, anarchy and internecine trouble. Always with a message of true patriotism.

Garrison, an editor and writer, was imprisoned, was mobbed and suffered humiliation because he was convinced that he was right. He was a soldier of the pen, and on the first day of January, 1863, the shackles fell from the wrists of the black man after 250 years of unrequited toil. And yet we find but a few lines devoted to Garrison in the history of this struggle. Whittier, Lowell and the many others who by their writings stirred the sentiment of the people into action are only considered as literary characters. Yet they were the real leaders in the struggle. The soldier is the man we honor, but we must not forget the men who take care of public opinion "back home" and whose task is to



**What Do You Know?**

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

**QUIZ**

1. What did British Foreign Minister Balfour mean when he said that the war cannot end "without an Appomattoch?"
2. Who is Sarah Bernhardt and why is she the object of particular concern now?
3. Is the most northerly point in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, in Maine or in Washington?
4. Who is Hoke Smith?
5. What is the difference between the Turkish titles "pasha" and "bey"?
6. What is a "penary shocker" in England?
7. The Scarpe is the scene of hard fighting. What and where is it?
8. Name the one nation of the Central Powers that has diplomatic connection with the United States.
9. The ruler of Khyva is reported as favoring a constitution for his country. What is Khyva and how is the name pronounced?
10. What does "antidiluvian" mean?

**Answers to Yesterday's Quiz**

1. War for aggrandizement means war for national advancement or accumulation of power.
2. There are 640 acres in a square mile.
3. Christianism means on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, as opposed to transatlantic, which means on the other side. The first syllable is pronounced "sis."
4. Senator Hiram W. Johnson and James D. Phelan are from California.
5. The seat of the Belgian Government is Brussels, in Belgium, France, to which it was moved when the Germans occupied Brussels, the capital of the kingdom.
6. "He save it to she and I" is incorrect because the preposition "to" should be followed by the objective case. "It is she to her and me" is correct.
7. The Dover-Calais Line across the English Channel is a principal route for the Allied supply and other ships. It connects Dover, England, and Calais, France.
8. The Dual Monarchy is Austria-Hungary; the union of the two monarchies forming the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
9. Aeroplans is pronounced "ay-ro-plans" with the accent on the first syllable which is composed of the combined sounds "er" and "pl." The "er" is pronounced distinctly.
10. Fish cannot live out of water because the oxygen from which they breathe absent from water and not from air.

**LA MARSEILLAISE**

Ye sons of France, awake to glory!  
 Hark! What myriads round you rise!  
 Your children, wives and grandsons hoary;  
 Behold their tears and hear their cries!  
 Shall hateful tyrants mischief breeding,  
 With hireling hosts, a ruffian band,  
 Affright and desolate the land,  
 While peace and liberty lie bleeding?  
 To arms, to arms, ye brave!  
 'Tis avenging sword unsheathe;  
 March on, march on,  
 All hearts resolved on liberty or death.

Now, when the dangerous storm is rolling,  
 Which treacherous kings, confederate,  
 raise:  
 The dogs of war, let loose, are howling,  
 And lo! our fields and cities blaze.  
 And shall we basely view the ruin,  
 While lawless force with filthy stride  
 Spreads desolation far and wide,  
 With crimes and blood his hands imbruing?  
 To arms, to arms, ye brave!  
 'Tis avenging sword unsheathe;  
 March on, march on,  
 All hearts resolved on liberty or death.

With luxury and pride surrounded,  
 The vile, insatiate despots dare,  
 Their thirst of power and gold unbouDED,  
 To mete and vend the light and air;  
 Like beasts of burden they would load us,  
 But man is man—and who is more?  
 Then shall they longer lash and goad us?  
 To arms, to arms, ye brave!  
 'Tis avenging sword unsheathe;  
 March on, march on,  
 All hearts resolved on liberty or death.

**ARRAS-CAMBRAI**

L. J. N.—From Arras to Cambrai is slightly more than twenty miles in a direct line. Before the war there was a fine roadway connecting these cities, but now, with some of the heaviest fighting in northern France occurring along this highway, doubtless a large portion of the road has been destroyed. Arras has been captured by the Allies, but Cambrai is held by the Germans.

**Entente Envoys**

H. W.—The date of the visit to Philadelphia of the French war commissioners in this country has not been fixed. The French commissioners have accepted the city's invitation, but it has not been announced whether or not the British representatives would join in the visit.

**Brazil's Army**

K. J.—Figures for Brazil's army are: Peace strength, 33,000 men; reserves, 137,000; war strength, 660,000. There are about 4,300,000 unorganized men of military age in the republic, which has a population of about 24,000,000 persons.

**Norfolk and Western**

C. D. M.—The more important terminals of the Norfolk and Western Railway are: Hagerstown, Md.; Columbus, O.; Cincinnati, O.; Norton, Va.; Bristol, Va.; Washington, N. C.; Durham, N. C.