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Philadelphia, Wednesday, April 25, 1917



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 lurk 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 Vancorb, 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 conspired 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 did not 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 from which to threaten "weakening" the Baltic. It is not to be seen at the same time that a city that is loved can, like the Temple, be destroyed and rebuilt in three days.

DISTRIBUTING THE COST OF WAR

A TRUNKFUL OF MISTAKES

NO NATURE 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, which could be immediately forgone when Manbeuge 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.

Nay, more than this mere right is America's, for, supremely favored, we are under the surest obligation not to copy the early blunders of our companions in arms. Our eyes are open. With vision so acute there is not the faintest excuse for not hitting hard, for not making every blow tell.

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.

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 enthral 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* rule, favors conscription, because it is not a square 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 are exempt from any tax. However, the tax on wool, which is not exported, is a tax on dogs. Dogs are the natural enemies of sheep and have so discouraged American farmers that the sheep industry has been practically wiped out. 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 for 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 shirking conscription for their wives. It remains 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 \$1,500,000,000 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 gets to 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.

New Comet Is Disccovered

"Is discovered," read you. Of this "comet" that's flyin'! Sure, that word gives a clue. There's no sine in denyin'. Wid wan glass or a spyin' light to help us in denyin'. We may find the star, too. Is an Irish wan, tryin' To appear to be new. Sure the rascal is lyin'! He's as old as Boru— Aye! the king of them, Brian— Give the devil his due: 'Tis that rascal, ORION.

Boston Nursery Rhymes

Oh! Waldo dearest, your prevention Makes me plethoric quite with indignation. Yet when the feline, maketh procreation Ridiculus mus will have its recreation.

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 thraat that could,
 Maybe, bear a little aikin'
 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 wishin'
 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's 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 slouder 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

SIR THOMAS BARCLAY, recounting in last Sunday's New York Times some recollections of an interview he had with Prexy Wilson in 1903, throws additional luster on a race question long enveloped in clouds of confusion. Wilson told me, if I remember aright, that his father had been born at Belfast, a Scotch colony in Ireland, that his grandfather had been born in Ireland and that he himself, to be sure, had been born in the United States.

THE BANNER THEY LOVE
 Bars that were born of the flame from the guns.
 Bars that are purer than myriad suns,
 Bars of the Banner they loved.

Stars that are one with the hosts in the sky.
 Stars with a glory that comes from on high.
 Stars of the Banner they loved.

Life at its sweetest, ungrudging they gave,
 Life, that the bars in their glory might wave,
 Life for the Banner they loved.

All, they have given, what more could they do.
 All, for the stars that were flucked from the blue.
 All for the Banner they loved.

MACKIE.

COUNSELOR-AT-LAW LEVIN reports: "I was talking to Sol Malnsberg, clerk of Miscellaneous Court, when a foreign-looking gentleman came in and asked if this was where he got his 'civilized' papers."

ENLISTMENT OF NEWSPAPERMEN
 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 von Bismarck, 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.

LA MARSEILLAISE
 Ye sons of France, awake to glory!
 Hark! What myriads round you rise!
 Your children, wives and grandsons hoarse;
 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.

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.

Brazil's Army
 K. J.—Figures for Brazil's army are: Peace strength, 33,000 men; reserves, 337,000; 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.; and Norfolk, N. C.



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 Appointment?"
 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 Kbia's is reported as favoring a constitution for his country. Who is Kbia 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 France, to which it was moved when the Germans occupied Brussels, the capital of the kingdom.
6. "He save it to she and he" is incorrect because the preposition "to" should be followed by the object of the verb. "It has to her and she" is correct.
7. The Dover-Calais Line across the English Channel is used for the principal route of Allied supplies and other ships. It connects Dover, England, and Calais, France.
8. The Dual Monarchy is Austria-Hungary, the union of two monarchies forming the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
9. Aeroplans is pronounced "ay-ro-plans," with the accents 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.

Marine Corps

F. K. L.—The authorized enlistment of the Marine Corps is 17,000 men. Total enlistments up to April 23 were nearly 15,000, making a shortage of nearly 2500 men.

Citizenship

D. S.—A minor born abroad of alien parents becomes a citizen of the United States automatically when his father becomes a citizen. If you were of age when your father became a citizen it will be necessary for you to take out citizenship papers.

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.

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