

Evening Public Ledger

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NEGLIGENCE AS TO MURDER

THE war has taken 29,999 doctors away from their civil positions. Secretary Baker is asking for 5000 more at once and 2500 a year hereafter for the duration of the war. Only 3200 new doctors are graduated from the medical colleges annually. They are usually needed to keep the hospitals full and to meet the demands of the increasing population.

The doctors who remain at home are hard-pressed to attend to 150 patients of their colleagues with the arms. And they are doing nothing here to make their work easier. In 1916 700 babies out of every 1000 born in this city died before they were a year old. Last year that number had increased to 110. This means that out of every 42,000 babies born 370 died who might have lived if the conditions in which they were born were as sanitary as the year before and if they could have had proper medical attention when they had it.

Doctors expert on sanitation says that filthy streets are a contributing cause to infant mortality. Our own Director of Public Health admits it and so do our doctors here. Yet when the attention of the men whose duty it is to keep the streets clean is called to the fact that they are filthy, the filth is not there and that old photographs taken a long time ago have been "doctored" to create a wrong impression. If they would go out and look for themselves they would learn the truth. We do not wish to assume that they know the condition of the streets and are trying to do it to save their face. It is more charitable to say that they are negligent.

But when the life and health of the community are at stake it is not fair for charitable treatment of incompetence. If they have not the good sense to resign, or that men who can keep the city clean may be put in their place, the duty of the Mayor is so plain that even he can be in no doubt about it. Negligence in such a crisis is akin to contributory responsibility for the murder of many infants that year than last. The babies in the poor districts are not alone neglected. A boy is likely any day to carry home disease germs in the street dust on his clothes that will kill his child.

Whenever we let a dirty job in these years of the sacrifice of young men in war we are robbing the future and weakening the nation. If success, selfish pride in our city is not enough to force proper sanitary care of the streets, a broad view of our responsibility to the generations to come ought to force us to action.

THE KAISER'S LIBERTY BUTTON

LIBERTY of communication between Boston and the grand headquarters of the German army are few. And yet it may be said the Liberty button sent by the Boston committee to the Emperor of all the Huns has actually reached its destination. The button is the rightful property of the Kaiser because the surplus of the fund with which he established the Germania Museum at Harvard has been invested in Liberty Bonds by the trustees. The fever and hallucinations and mysterious terrors that nowadays are said to keep Wilhelm awake seem to indicate that he has safely reached its journey's end.

Though it is no modest thing for a paper heavy with clanking medals, a Liberty button properly placed might affect the Kaiser as a menacing shout from the sky. It is too little to shoot. It cannot be shipped or with a sword. Its simple inscription translated to the Hun chief might read in his ears like the awful sentence which the Bishop of Rome loudly in a court-room after a man has been sentenced to death: "Take him back!"

ENERGY APPLIED IN THE WRONG PLACE

CONGRESS is now considering fixing the price of cotton at twenty cents a pound. Cotton is selling in Atlanta at more than thirty cents. The price-fixing committee of the war industries board has established a price for hides in the hope of reducing the price of shoes. The price of wheat has been fixed. It is likely that we shall soon have an attempt at price-fixing for meat and butter and eggs and milk.

And the first effect of this sort of thing will be seen in a repetition of the disastrous attempt to control the price of potatoes last winter. There was so much juggling that the holders of potatoes refused to sell in the hope of getting more money. The price was so high that people stopped eating potatoes. They are now rotting in the cellars of the farmers who cannot get a fair price for them, and the meddling has discouraged them so that they are not planting as many as they should to supply the demand.

Interference with the ordinary economic law of supply and demand has demoralized the whole food-producing industry. Farmers are slaughtering their cattle because they cannot get food at a fair price and cannot sell the butter and milk for enough to make expenses. Chickens are being killed because it costs too much to keep them. The chickens suffer because of the high

TO THE UTMOST

SECRETARY BAKER'S army expansion program, presented yesterday to the House Committee on Military Affairs, proposes a blanket authority which would empower the President to put all the available man-power of the country under arms at once.

The dramatic force of the suggestion is unparalleled. No other incident of the war has been so imperiously eloquent of our national purpose. The immediate intention of the Administration is to develop, without a moment of needless delay, an army that shall be limited only by the country's ability to train, equip and supply it.

The President has now gone almost to the limit of his authority under the first appropriation act, which empowered him to call out 1,000,000 men. It is estimated that we now have 1,200,000 soldiers in the field or in training. This estimate includes the personnel of the National Guard, the National Army and the regulars.

The last of the men in the first draft will soon be called. To meet the developments of the war and our increasing responsibilities, Congress is now asked to extend the President's authority in order that an army of not less than 3,000,000 men may be in the field by autumn. It is intended to draw at once upon the 2,000,000 or more available already listed as fit for first-line service. For the present at least the new program does not contemplate an army of more than 3,500,000 or any departure beyond existing age restrictions.

Provers are exercising as is here suggested for the President was never dreamed of by any king. And yet it has been the peculiar achievement of President Wilson not to injure public confidence, but to lead the nation as a whole will follow him heartily and without question in the present instance. The new army plan has the force of morality and logic to recommend it.

The larger the army may be the safer it, in the long run, will be. If an army of 2,000,000 Americans had been in Europe three months ago the best German drive probably never would have been attempted. If an army of 3,000,000 had been in immediate prospect a year ago nations that now are but a memory might have succeeded and others might have been spared agonies unparelleled.

The moral implications of such a military establishment would have been adequate to keep the craziest of kings in a condition approximating sanity. It is left just to the President to say that his own civil interpretations of the American purpose and his splendid definitions of national policy have given to our existing army and to that which is yet to be a force not calculable in terms of men and numbers. And in such extraordinary times as these, when opinions are often too harshly arrived at, it may be questioned whether the Administration itself deserves all the blame for obvious delays. It is only necessary to imagine the amazement and indignation that might have been general a year ago were the President to have asked for such authority as Congress now is most likely to accord him without any emotion. We are all learning—Congress, the President and the people alike.

If there is any sin that may be charged against the country, against Congress and against the Administration, it is the lagged fear of military action which seemed to prevent so gallantly in every quarter before the "shell-shock" which Mr. Wilson has lately referred to. Military, as we have so far experienced it in this country, has contributed little but good. It has made for unity, for understanding, for health, for spiritual energy.

There may have been in the cross current of foreign intrigue, in developments under cover, causes which tended to inspire hesitation at Washington in the early days of the war. Certainly the nature of the conflict as it is being revealed was in itself a thing to make humane men pause. It will be possible for us to know more of all this when the history of the war is written—and not before.

Meanwhile, it is equally necessary to admit that American delay has cost terribly. It has prolonged the war. It has made our ultimate task the more difficult. Even the Administration knows this now. The fact that it has been aware of these things for some time is reflected in the statement of the army heads that they will be able to equip, clothe, supply, train and even transport 1,300,000 additional men in the next year.

Such a statement is in effect a revelation. It is proof that doubts and hopes vanished together some time ago. And one cannot but wonder how this information will sound in Germany.

THE MAN IN THE STREET

O. HENRY fussed and fumed because he couldn't find out who the Man About Town was. He went out on a still hunt for him and finally, to his chagrin, found the man he wanted in his very own waistcoat. But O. Henry's friend is no longer a popular figure in American life. For some reason he has taken himself off, with his long, elegant gloves and flapping coat, and in his place is a sturdier fellow, one who, according to his name, probably carries a rock and shovel and dresses in the latest model of overalls. We refer to the Man in the Street.

THE publisher was talking about a new story. "You'll find it," says he. "The man in the street will tell it up." The press agent wanted a new story. "We must find something that will go to the man in the street." The publisher said something that would appeal to the man in the street.

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GROUND GLASS

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ARMAGEDDON AND THE BUSH LEAGUE JOURNALISTS

THE war has brought the small town paper into its own in a curious way. It is not only the most interesting reading matter, but the big city business. It is always a source of pride to be the first to hear of some thing. Your city dweller, through his newspaper, knows for the first time that some thing has happened somewhere. It is the only thing that makes the small town paper interesting to the city dweller. It is the only thing that makes the small town paper interesting to the city dweller.

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"HO, HUM! WELL, I'M GOIN' TO HURRY, AIN'T I?"



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A MAIDEN THAT I KNOW

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, Sweet, demure and shy. Oh, that I could meet her by an arrow from my bow. To pierce her lovely breast And fill with great unrest Her bosom with my love.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, With eyes in which there lies The splendor of the evening skies. But if I love should come and show A little trick or two That he can use to woo, Her eyes like stars would glow.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, With a golden voice. That ever makes my soul rejoice. Yet if she knew love's way And joy and happiness Her song, like a sweet melody, From her heart would flow.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, With a red, red rose. Within a dew-wet garden grows. And I love roses so. That I will try my luck And see if I can pluck The fairest of flowers that grow.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, And Kaiser Kipling's mother-in-law—where that valiant lady's taken herself?

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, The committee of Councils has at last exonerated the Mayor in the bond investigation. Now who will exonerate the committee?

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, Alchod, says Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale, is sure to be driven out of the United States. Justice Brandeis needn't worry. He can still run his office in New Jersey.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, Gavroche, who abated the Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo in June, 1914, died recently in an Austrian fortress. No need to be too hard on the poor half-wit's memory. Many more imperial heroes had planned the way long before he came along with his horse pistol.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. What are "weeping" trees? 2. Who are the Hohenzollerns? 3. Where is Stuttgart? 4. Name the author of "It is Never Too Late to Mend." 5. What is a salinifer? 6. Identify "the sick man of Europe." 7. What is a caisson? 8. What are the trade winds? 9. Why is the expression "Between you and I" incorrect? 10. Who is the American director of aircraft production?

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. The Lansbury is a celebrated structure built by Ulm, king of Crete, the prime feature of which was a maze, out of which none who entered could make their way. 2. Iowa is known as the Hawkeye State. 3. John Jay was the first American to write "The Tort and the Frog." 4. Mervyn is a street and sometimes expressive by formal disciplinarianism from a famous French military officer of the seventeenth century whose name became a byword. 5. Kremlin is the citadel of Moscow, containing a palace, church and other important buildings. 6. A conscription government is an organized government. It was said by Benjamin Disraeli in a speech in 1845. 7. Labrador is a province of Canada, in southern Ontario. 8. The assassination of President Lincoln was planned at a convention held in Philadelphia in 1861. 9. Cartography is the science and art of map-making. 10. Leo Hiltbrand is the newly appointed vice president of the United States Council.

THEY'RE a maiden that I know, The Kaiser's Liberty Button