

MR. WILSON TO MEXICO

The President's Address Is Another Effort to Use Truth as a Sword

PRESIDENT WILSON, in his address to the Mexican editors, again reveals his familiar conviction that simple truth and decency can accomplish more in the end than an army with banners.

The novelty and audacity of his complete frankness give force to Mr. Wilson's method. On this occasion he spoke not alone for Mexico, harassed and beleaguered as it is by swarms of German spies, propagandists and agitators.

In the main the President's statement of principles will not sound strange in American ears. But the necessity and wisdom of some such statement are evident when one remembers that it is likely to amaze all of Mexico and most of Central America, where Germany has been working as feverishly with destructive propaganda as she worked in Russia.

The President made it plain that he talked not for himself, but for the American people. He was, as a matter of fact, the spokesman for the American conscience.

Secretary Baker says that there has been no final decision as to what to do with Leonard Wood, but that "there is no prejudice against him."

Two Things for Germany to Remember

TWO points in Secretary Lansing's notable Union College speech deserve attention. The first is his description of the enemy we are fighting. In the early days of our participation in the conflict much was said in Washington about the difference between the Imperial German Government, against which we had declared war, and the German people.

Mr. Lansing does not say now that we are making war on the German people, but he says we are fighting Prussianism, and he confesses that the Prussians have been convinced by their rulers of the mission of their race to control the world.

There is apparently a lingering hope that the non-Prussians of Germany may become the psychological allies of the forces which are fighting Prussia. Events will show whether that hope has any foundation.

The second point is the Secretary of State's formulation of the ends that must be attained if the Entente Allies are to be victorious. He says that "the dream of Hamburg to the Persian Gulf and of an enslaved Poland and Russia must be dispelled."

A Rift in the Russian Clouds

SOME sort of unity is growing in Russia. This is apparent in the frank appeal of the cadet or bourgeois representatives for American aid. Evidently organized lawlessness cannot last there much longer.

The title of the latest war atlas, "Battles of Today," might well be revised to read "Victories of Tomorrow."

their erratic nonsense on street corners in every American city. Men of that type know nothing of the difficulties of civilized government. They are ignorant of the long and painful experience through which the races have passed in search of ideal methods of rule and communal discipline.

Optimism? The continual postponement of the new food tax make even the prospect of rating the bonnet shad comparatively cheerful.

So Will the Finish? The best news of the German drive is that the Hun strategy suggests his Verdun tactics.

Hunch? That American who turned down Bertha Krupp's monster guns for Panama must have had a prophetic "hunch" of how little they would intimidate Paris.

The potato ration is to be reduced in Germany, but when the Irish enter the army in full force there is likely to be more murphy's across the Rhine than will agree with the Prussian digestion.

That death and destruction cannot always be measured by the size of the agency is now being learned by those big gunmakers of Krupp's who have been seized with small-pox.

Secretary Baker says that 700,000 Americans are in France, and the Berlin newspapers admit that there are 200,000. The Berlin editors ought to prepare their readers a little more rapidly for the surprise of their lives.

Society in Switzerland is a bit mixed these days. Krupp directors and former German ambassadors and Kings of Greece and Russian grand duchesses all rub elbows in the Swiss ten-cent stores.

"Bullock Killed by Bombing of Villa," says a French warfront headline. This is the first time we learned that old "Pancho" was abroad, but the report that something else got the shot intended for him gives a seasoning of verity to the tale.

WE IMAGINE that the Cabinet members will be glad when the commencement oration season is over and they can get back to work. Because not even Mr. Hoover has suggested putting Cabinet members on short orations.

About Forty-two Inches

Those Brave Blue Eyes

Thoughts on Whisky

THE GOWNSMAN recalls an address of Bernstorff some years ago at a Washington birthday in which that astute exponent of the insidious propaganda of his imperial master dilated on the happy lot of the German workman, on the splendor and beneficent things which had been done for him, chiefly by the kindly, humanitarian aristocrats of Prussia, and other like bunkum intended to uphold the ideal of an enlightened and liberal Germany in the van of the march of civilization.

NO, FRIENDS OF the Nation, we shall never win the war by talking about it; but we cannot make too plain nor reiterate too often the principles for which we are fighting, nor can we hold up too conspicuously to the gaze of the honest men the perverted ideas which lie still at the base of the most serious of all attacks on civilization or expose too nakedly the monster against which we are striving.

HAPPILY, there is no mystery about this great war can take care of himself in the sea of literature which it has begotten. The writing of his kind, the authority of the daily papers has been discredited; it is hardly more likely to misrepresent the truth than history founded slavishly on the documents of diplomacy. The historian who would write the history of the world war on the basis furnished by the literature of propaganda might do worse; and to do worse he would have to shut his eyes to the conflict of passions and ideas, the contrast of studied, dishonest finesse and honest patriotism, the struggle of darkness against light, more truly and wholly such than the annals of the history of the world have hitherto disclosed to us.

There is serious food for astonishment in the headline, "Billets Given to War Critics." Here at home he is usually self-appointed.

The news that the construction of the great Alaskan railroad is to be continued during this war year indicates that we'll be able to take a train for Fairbank far sooner than for Broad and Girard avenue.

The Mexican editor of The Voice of the Revolution is reported to have been amazed at a train for Fairbank far sooner than for Broad and Girard avenue.

"Norse tonnage more than sunk," declares a London dispatch, which suggests that the Germans are up to some new super-devised until we realize that King Haakon's subjects have been simply building a greater number of ships than they have been losing.

THE GOWNSMAN

THE Nation, which is nothing if it is not "different," asks, "Precisely, what is the purpose of war propaganda?" and it proceeds to an interesting resume of the enormous activity of the nations concerned in the war in this respect; the pamphlets, circulars, maps, tables, reports, bulletins and diplomatic books in designation covering every color of the rainbow.

"PRIMARILY, we take it," continues the Nation, "the object of propaganda is to spread information, refute error, confound opponents and make converts"; of German propaganda, we may interpolate, to diffuse misinformation, perpetuate error, confound the enemy and convert the world into the obedient slave of Pan-German lords. Well may the Nation ask anxiously, "What demonstrable results has all this prodigious effort attained?"

WE MAY grant the exceeding difficulty of refuting error by means of an appeal to the intellect when the passions of man are once involved. We may grant that to confound an opponent is commonly only pleasant to him who confounds; unpleasant, but seldom mortal, to the confounded. And we may acknowledge the pertinency of the little old jingle about the man who was "convinced against his will."

MOOREOVER, there is abundant proof of the success of propaganda. The Gownsmen will venture that none of his readers is wanting in a considerable amount of miscellaneous information, acquired without the exercise of his will and sometimes in spite of it, by the gross and obvious methods of advertisement. We have indelible information which associates a wild-eyed staring bull with a certain brand of tobacco or the names of several European cities with men's garters, not especially distinguishable in their discomfort.

Mr. Cobb spoke thoughtfully; there was a good deal between his lines," says our own reporter, interviewing Irvin yesterday.

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KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MELTING-POT WARRIOR



Westerner in the Ohio State Journal

BOITO AND ITALIAN OPERA

IT IS doubtful if a brief cable dispatch yesterday announcing the death of Arrigo Boito awakened many thrills of either recognition or interest in American readers. To be sure, the anagram name under which he sometimes wrote, would have been still more unilluminating. Both appellations have a queer look to our eyes, and in this respect at least they are reflective of the singular character of the man who bore them. Indeed, the history of genius—for genius Boito unquestionably was—reveals few older pages than those devoted to this poet and musician of Italy.

"I COULD," said Hamlet, "be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space." It is still debatable whether these words indicate more timid reluctance or supreme self-sufficiency, and in the case of Arrigo Boito the world has still to learn whether his rigid seclusion denoted shyness or vain scorn of popular favor.

HERE was a composer of high gifts. They burgeoned brilliantly in "Mefistofele," an epoch-making opera, whose inspiration and sincerity influenced Italian opera during fifty years of development and is felt even today. But from 1875, when the final revision of "Mefistofele" appeared, until his death, Boito made public not a bar of his music. During most of that long period his talents are said to have been expended on the monumental music drama of "Nero."

THE piece concerning that alleged masterpiece assumed the aspect of legends. It is often said that the work is finished to the last note, but Boito himself would never admit any finality in the matter. He was continually revising the score, announcing a date for disclosure and then repudiating his pledges with the plea that further changes were necessary. Within the last decade the New York Metropolitan has several times listed the opera in the repertory, but at the last moment the presentation agreements were revoked. Not long ago an inquirer, endowed with moral courage, flatly asked the composer if the music drama were really completed and if so why he didn't release it from his study.

"It's now a big, thick volume," replied Boito, "and therefore I can't spare it. It is so handy for raising me to the right height on my piano stool!"

THE chief reason why "Mefistofele" is so seldom heard nowadays is that it demands a bass of superlative powers for the title role. The opera was last sung here at the Academy of Music some fifteen years ago, with the Russian artist, Chailpine, as "the spirit who denies" and Margaret McIntyre as Marguerite.

THAT Boito in middle life failed to follow up his "Mefistofele" laurels was mainly due to the diversity of his talents. Not only was he a clever novelist, essayist and translator, responsible notably for transferring the prose works of Beethoven, Wagner and Schumann into Italian, but he

was also a poet and dramatist of high quality. His skill as a librettist bore special fruit in his fortunate partnership with Verdi, for whom he supplied the respectfully Shakespearean "Otello" and "Falstaff." It was even said that Boito's fine taste largely influenced Verdi to write in the modern music drama style and that the guiding hand of the younger collaborator can be traced in the masterly sincerity and force of the two greatest works of late nineteenth century opera. Typical also were the myths which arose about the famous partnership.

IT WAS hinted that the aged Verdi was at work upon a "King Lear" opera and that Boito this time had had an actual share in the music. When Verdi's executors found no such work the legend-makers suggested that it was in the secretive Boito's possession and that he refused to surrender it. Milanese art circles are now expected to be deeply interested in the search through Boito's effects. Perhaps rare treasures will be unearthed. Perhaps, on the contrary, even the long-awaited "Nero" may be found to have been revised out of existence, as was the meaningless picture, covered with innumerable strata of paint, in Balzac's very human and tragic tale, "The Unknown Masterpiece."

IN TRUTH, anything eccentric may be postulated of the genius of Boito. One of its products was a complete score and book for a "Hero and Leander," but the composer was so dissatisfied with his own work that he urged Mancinelli to write entirely new music, a task which was successfully accomplished. When Ponchielli's "La Gioconda" was given the libretto was accredited to an unknown, "Tobia Gorrio." Boito was masquerading again.

Of late years very little has been chronicled of his actions. The natural outgrowth of such persistent supercentricity was comparative obscurity. In the days of self-advertisers a distinguished talent was forgotten. Boito seldom complained. He was king of his "nutshell."

The Hand Will "The shortage of Red Cross nurses needs a New Play!" be so alarming after all." Why not, Mr. Bones? "Why, because youth can add a lot to feminine charm."

Now wouldn't that jar you? Here the boys are studying real hard trying to learn French, when along comes somebody with the suggestion that they be sent to Russia!

A military pact between the United States and Great Britain? We have an informal one already, and so many precedents are being broken nowadays that whether it is formal or not does not matter.

What Do You Know? QUIZ

- 1. What is a Shavian?
2. Who is Secretary of Labor in the Wilson Cabinet?
3. Where is Lafayette University located?
4. Who is General Sir William Robertson?
5. Name the author of "Phirun's Progress."
6. Identify "The Bedford Tinker."
7. How does heliotrope get its name?
8. Who is conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra?
9. Where is Metz?
10. What is the full form and meaning of U-bout?

- Answers to Yesterday's Quiz
1. Dr. Harry Pratt Judson is president of the University of Chicago.
2. Kansas is called the Sunflower State.
3. London is the largest city in the world.
4. Jaguar, a powerful, large catlike animal found in North and South America, similar in markings to the leopard of the Old World.
5. General Pelain is the French chief commander on the Mars-Alone battlefield.
6. Misogyny, a peculiarly characteristic of an individual, or in literature or art a special mannerism of 1816.
7. Tractor, a farming motor, operated by oil or gasoline, which is adapted for plowing, harrowing, treading, cultivating, etc.
8. Franklin K. Lane is Secretary of the Interior.
9. General Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright, critic and philosopher, wrote "Cashmere."
10. Brigadier General James D. Harbord is in command of the American machine in France.

Mixed Direction

Real Business

The Readers' Point of View

Banish the Kaiserblume

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—Is it not about time that some one started in to educate the people—and they are not few in number—who go about wearing a carnation in their buttonholes and also did something to stop the sale of this flower on the various stands in this city? I do not suppose that the wearers know that they are flaunting the national flower of Germany, the Kaiser's own flower, named the Kaiserblume.

I can remember how my own dislike for the flower began in the days when we were neutral and on occasions such as the striking of the Lusitania or of some German victory carnations sprang up everywhere in the coats of obviously German-born wearers and sympathizers. If this flower is now being flaunted through ignorance, it is time the flower dealers and the people generally were informed on the subject.

A. W. ROBERTSHAW, Philadelphia, June 11.

Truth About Russia

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—The prominent space you have given to that unwritten "Letter to the People of Russia" in today's issue was, to my belief, a service rendered your readers, the appreciation of which will long live in their minds. It was the greatest joy for me personally, as well as to some of my friends, to read in your paper, a paper that is reaching the minds of tens of thousands of readers, a description of the Russian, nay, more than a description, a warm sympathy for all that is Russian in an analysis of the present critical situation for my frankly say, no other newspaper, except the very radical socialist ones, has dared to face the true character of things in Russia as boldly as you have today.

I want to assure you that truths such as you have given us today will be imbedded in our minds, the minds of your readers, for a long time, and that my appreciation to you for the continuance of the noble work will always remain in our hearts.

HARRY ROSEMAN, Philadelphia, June 10.

Danger to Women as Messengers

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger: Sir—Apropos of your article in the June 7 edition captioned "Soon Telegrams May Be Delivered Here by Women," may I give a side to this matter and register the appreciation of which will long live in their minds. The idea of a young woman going alone to deliver messages to and to take messages from some of the places that are customers of the telegraph companies is fraught with great danger, and the community would do well to recognize this. Possibly it is not generally known that in New York it was found necessary to enact a special law for the protection of the women who have entered this trade. The law now prohibits the employment of women under twenty-one years of age as messengers and regulates the hours of women more than twenty-one in such employment to ten hours a day, six days a week, as well as prohibiting their working between 11 p. m. and 5 a. m.

Your article says no women under eighteen shall be employed. There is so much difference between eighteen years and twenty-one years that we who are interested in the questions of women in industry sincerely hope Pennsylvania will keep as high a standard as our sister State that has made the study of women in the messenger service and has set twenty-one years as its minimum age.

A. ESTELLE LAUDER, Executive Secretary Consumers' League of Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, June 11.

Cheap at That

Mixed Direction

Real Business