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WEDNESDAY EVENING, A. G. 26

POLICE RESPONSIBILITY

HERE is a grave phase of the alleged mysterious shooting affair in the northern section of the city a few nights ago which cannot be concealed behind known winks and shrugging of shoulders and clairvoyant suggestion.

Underneath the apparent indifference of the public to the attitude of the police department is a serious muttering of criticism which must undermine the confidence of the people in their chosen constabulary. Above and beyond the immediate offense is the more serious question of the duty of the police officials to protect the community and safeguard life and property.

To assume that there is no public interest in an indifferent attitude toward the offender or offenders on the part of the police department is to assume that the public cares nothing about what its police officials do in any case.

There may be deplorable circumstances which justify leniency under certain conditions, but the shooting of a man full of holes and his refusal to make accusation against the one who has done the shooting constitute a situation demanding thorough police investigation.

Loss of public confidence in the character of its police department is the first step to an increase of crime and for that reason the utmost circumspection should be observed in the discharge of police duties.

Out of the censored atmosphere of the European war come some remarkable tales of heroism that are likely to have originated in the minds of the prolific writers who are describing the conflict at long range. There can be no doubt of the material for these stories, but it is fair to assume that many of the graphic narratives that are now being told are pure fiction.

THE WAR AND BUSINESS

GEORGE F. WATT, general manager of the Elliott-Fisher Typewriter Company, gives American businessmen some sound advice in his article in the Telegraph of yesterday relating to the war in Europe and its effect on business conditions in this country.

Mr. Watt had almost completed a tour of Europe on business for his firm when hostilities commenced and he brings first-hand knowledge of much value, which, in a very practical way, he applies to the situation as he finds it here.

Mr. Watt says that European businessmen see what is dawning on the vision of our own financiers and manufacturers—that the war spells opportunity for trade extensions of large magnitude as well as losses through the failure of European markets.

Mr. Watt foresees that eventually we shall not only regain our European trade, but will absorb much of that of South America and the Orient, until recently controlled largely by the English, the Germans and the French. Mr. Watt is not foolishly optimistic and he understands that America must pay her share of the cost of the war in which she has no part, but he believes the new business we shall develop "will offset the great commercial losses that foreign wars are bound to cause in this country."

Dropping bombs on defenseless women and children from airships is not warfare, and the European nation that indulges in it deserves the contempt of the civilized world.

VISITING OLD SCENES

THE Altoona Times has a lengthy and very readable account of the visit a few days since of Charles M. Schwab, the steel king, and his wife to the scene of Mr. Schwab's birth, a few miles from Williamsburg, in Blair county.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwab slipped quietly into the county from their summer home at Loretto, and, piloted by one of the old residents of Williamsburg, spent a day motoring among the scenes of Mr. Schwab's boyhood days. The millionaire put business behind him entirely and called on numerous of the aged people of the community, recalling incidents and happenings of the days before anybody in Blair county suspected they were entertaining in their midst one of the money-making geniuses of the century. He saw the humble cottage in which he was born and stood

JEWELING CHAT.

For a time in silent contemplation of the little room in which he first saw the light of day.

It is a far cry from the mountain hamlet of Blair county to the commanding position that Mr. Schwab enjoys to-day, and at first thought one might wonder why a man with so much to think about and so many of the enjoyments of the world at his beck and call should choose to spend a day of his vacation in such humble surroundings. But the call of our childhood comes again and again, some times very persistently, to all of us, be we of high or low degree. Few there are who do not entertain an affection that will never die for the place we knew as "home" in our early years. No matter how small it is, nor how its surroundings have changed, it was the scene of joys we can never forget, and the time often comes that brings with it a keen desire to go back again; to try, vainly mayhap, to live over those happy, happy days.

Memory garbs the old home with a glamour that marble halls may not hold, and at the call of the days ago we go hurrying back to meet the shadows of the things that were, content to let the world of to-day roll on apace while we live 'mid the scenes of a rainbow-hued past.

Steelton is in the midst of an important paving campaign, and has just determined to award a contract for many of its hill streets to a company bidding considerably more than a competing company in order to use material having a rough surface rather than asphalt.

UNITING FOR BUSINESS

RECENTLY Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York, delivered a remarkable address before the State Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Mr. Vanderlip is one of the recognized leaders in the financial world and what he has to say comes with special significance at this time.

He believes that nearly everything that businessmen have to complain of in the political tendency of the day can be pretty directly traced to their own neglect of their political duties. On this point he says:

"The stake which business men have in the outcome is enormous. Great as it is, however, it is of no more concern to them, of no more importance to the future happiness of their children, than it is to the condition and outlook of the humblest of workers."

A disaster to capital, a crippling and discouragement of directive ability, the disheartening of men of enterprise, will not have its effects confined to the class which you as delegates from the Chambers of Commerce represent. Its results will encompass the whole social body. There is no man so humble that his interest is not as great as yours in the outcome.

Mr. Vanderlip has set forth in this terse and convincing way the very fundamental principle that is now at stake in the present serious business dilemma. There is an alarming increase of paternalism under the existing administration at Washington and we are plunging on along the lines of theoretical government in such a way as to cause thoughtful and constructive minds to pause and ask, whether we are drifting? The concentration of authority in a central government and the elimination of the freedom of the State and local governments is a serious proposition, which, as Mr. Vanderlip observes, is a significant phase of our political life.

The constructive forces of the country have been silent for years under the calumny and the widespread criticism of little men, and during the last few years there has come into the public life of the nation a large number of half-baked theorists who have vaunted their ideas of government and business and pretty much everything else at the expense of the prosperity and happiness of the people. And until the more sane and thoughtful men and women realize that these false teachers are creating distrust and breaking down the barriers of sanity there will be no change for the better.

In the opinion of Mr. Vanderlip it ought to be the business of the Chamber of Commerce and the other organizations of businessmen to see to it "that every misstatement of fact, whether made in Congress, in the press or in any public utterance, is challenged. Let men understand that loose statements, that misstatements, can no longer go carelessly on."

The time has come when common sense must prevail in this country and the demagogues and the over-ambitious men who for their own purposes are misleading the people shall be driven to the rear. Appeals to prejudice and to class hatred and to the discredited should be crushed as one would crush the viper, and with as little consideration.

"TEDDY" AS A WAR LORD

HOW often nowadays do we hear the remark, "It's a good thing 'Teddy' isn't President; he certainly would have us in a war with some nation!"

But is this attitude fair to the distinguished citizen of Oyster Bay? An admirer, discussing this tendency to paint the Colonel as a fire-eating statesman, says:

"During the seven and one-half years of his administration not one single shot was fired against a foreign foe. Speaking of him as a war lord, was the peace of Portsmouth the action of a war lord? The winning of the Nobel peace prize clearly points out that he is not a war lord. He did not go to war with Venezuela merely because he declined to be irritated by the actions of a weak opponent. If Mr. Wilson had followed his example and sent the battle fleet around the world the great European conflict now being waged could have been averted. The man who was once called hasty and unsafe did more for the permanent peace of the world than any other diplomat of his day."

Colonel Roosevelt may not always be in harmony with the universal peace advocates for, like many of his fellow countrymen, he believes in an efficient navy as the best guarantee of peace, but the winner of an international peace prize can hardly be characterized as a war lord.

The south of Ireland and Ulster, it appears, are gunning together for stray Germans.

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