

## Public Opinion

### THE VICTORIA CROSS.

(London Telegraph.)

The V. C. still sparingly bestowed is an honour more gloriously gained than ever; and at each appearance of a new list of awards one may well think with a smile of the days, so short a time ago, when serious attention used to be paid to those discerning persons among us who were wont to announce to the world, including Germany, that we were a degenerate people, with the old root of valor no longer in us. It is often said, and every wearer of the V. C. knows it to be true, that the cross is earned a hundred times without recognition for every time that it is bestowed. The taciturn private who, when asked how he won his V. C., answered that "the colonel was looking his way," expressed the consciousness of the army at large on this subject; and General Gordon went so far as to disapprove of the institution altogether, on the ground that there was nothing to choose in the matter of bravery among all those who were fit to wear the Queen's uniform. But that was counsel of perfection; and there is no doubt that the rarity of the distinction adds to its splendor, even in the eyes of those who best know how much true heroism goes unmarked and unrewarded.

### NEWSPAPERS OF THE WAR.

(Buffalo Express.)

The day of the one-cent newspaper is past. The world-war settled that. The war has been particularly hard on newspapers. There was a decreased volume of advertising at the beginning of the war, while the expenses of collecting war news were unprecedented. This combination put the quietus on hundreds of newspapers in every part of the world. Many others are destined to go out of business ere the end of the present era of high prices for materials. The weaker papers are bound to go to the wall. The stronger ones are protecting themselves by asking their subscribers to pay something more than a nominal price for their reading matter.

Almost everything that enters into the making of a newspaper has doubled in price. The exceptions have trebled. Hardest blow of all this is the growing scarcity and cost of white paper, the most important of our raw materials.

### THERE IS NO "FOREVER."

(Detroit News)

To be sure, no generation can decree anything "forever." Years ago the D. U. R. used to induce village councils to grant it perpetual franchises, and the D. U. R. once showed a disposition to make "forever" mean just that, but the absurdity of such a position was too apparent. No generation to bind another generation. Nothing in a democracy exists "forever" by law; if it exists forever, it is because of the people's continued belief in it. The constitution of the United States itself is not fixed "forever"; it may be modified, changed or completely overthrown at the will of the sovereign people.

### THE LUXURIES.

(Brantford Courier.)

Charles M. Schwab recently gave a banquet to prominent citizens in Bethlehem at a cost of \$10,000. Potatoes and eggs must have figured largely on the menu.

The balance of trade in favor of the United States on merchandise transactions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, was \$2,135,775,355. The total of merchandise export trade was \$33,658,865 and of import trade \$2,197,883,510.

### GERMAN FINANCING.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Today over half a billion dollars of paper money, first issued two years ago, is circulating in Germany, while there is in addition a bank note circulation of over a billion and three-quarter dollars. Of course all this is Germany's business. To borrow at home is the best place to negotiate a loan. If Germany had taken the precaution to devise means to provide the interest on the war loans the method she has followed would compare favorably with any in any financial undertaking of such magnitude. But the trouble in such a system is that you cannot tax the people from whom you borrow the money in order to pay them the interest due them without causing the greatest dissatisfaction and endangering the success of future loans. So Germany has taken the easy road and has put off the evil day until the end of the war. What will that end be, and how will the German people take their increased burdens?

### COMMON LANGUAGE AND LINEAGE.

(British Weekly.)

In spite of the fact that the American nation is now composite we can still say that we have the same language, the same ancestors, the same natural characteristics. In literature, in religion, and in democracy we are on the same ground. There are differences, but they do not go to the root. Every Briton who has visited America . . . . . knows how kind and generous the American people are, and we may venture to say that they on their part have no reason to complain of their reception either in Great Britain or in any part of our Empire.

### THE PRUSSIAN CONSUMPTION OF THE USES OF POWER.

(Life.)

Belgium is one of the few remaining places where the present German government can have its way completely, carry out his ideas of civilization and make manifest how it would deal with the rest of the world if it got the chance. Whenever we begin to say to ourselves that the Germans are a brave people and their methods have much merit, and that we ought to think better of them, along comes some new demonstration in Belgium of the terrible incompatibility of the Prussian conception of the uses of power with the standards of behavior that the civilized world approves.

### EAT RICE, GROW FAT, AND SAVE MONEY.

(Memphis Commercial Appeal.)

This is a free advertisement for rice. Rice is one of the few food products that has not advanced in price. You can get about four pounds of rice for a quarter. A quarter's worth of rice will carry you further than 50 cents' worth of beef. A quarter's worth of rice will carry you as far as 50 cents' worth of flour.

Rice is a wholesome food. Fashion caused a reduction of the greatest food value in rice requiring it to be polished. There ought to be a law forbidding the whitening of flour and polishing of rice. The law should be so that the whole grain should be ground into flour. People would have better teeth and better digestion.

But this article is about cheap food and not about the business of keeping healthy.

Rice is the chief diet of about a third of the population of the world. The rice eating Jap whipped the filling out of the tallow and flour eating Russian. A man can go further on a rice diet than on any other single article of food that is grown.

So, if you do not want to spend all your money for food, buy rice.

If you want to have a variety in your diet, and that cheaply, buy sweet potatoes. And if you want a dessert buy some molasses. Rice, sweet potatoes and molasses are the only food products we know of that are not high. Eat rice, it is healthful; and eat rice, it is cheap.

### STOUT OLD JOHN BULL.

(N. Y. Tribune.)

England has good reason to congratulate herself on the state of her foreign trade. Others might call it miraculous. Consider the simple statement that the value of Great Britain's exports of merchandise to foreign customers in the month of October was normal. It seems incredible. Her merchandise exports for the last four years have been as follows:

1916 . . . . .	\$220,875,000
1915 . . . . .	159,845,000
1914 . . . . .	143,010,000
1913 . . . . .	233,115,000

Last October, therefore, British exports of merchandise, not including military supplies sent abroad, were only \$12,240,000 less than in October, 1913, the year before the war. It was not a freak month. The rise in exports has been consistent and uninterrupted. Allowance has to be made, of course, for the fact that in these comparisons money value is expressed. The rise in prices has affected money values. But in many instances actual quantities are rapidly increasing, especially of cotton and woollen goods. In a state of war, importing her raw cotton at very high prices from the United States, England is holding her old foreign trade in cotton piece goods. We have hardly touched it competitively. We sell the cotton as before and British labor converts it into fabrics as before for the markets of the world.

### LIQUOR AND WAR.

(Hamilton Times.)

Col. the Rev. Canon Almond says: "I saw a man condemned to be shot because he got drunk on duty. He did not complain of the sentence. But he did complain that he, who had volunteered and done months of a soldier's work, should be shot for a lapse under great nervous strain, while thousands of his fellow-countrymen could stay at home, waste their time, get drunk or do as they pleased, with no sense of their national duties, and not get punished.

"Since I came back," continued the Colonel, "I have been shocked to see the number of young men here on the streets, dropping into the saloons and gambling dens and that sort of thing. I believe that we should have a system of registration, and every young man who is not a national asset, who is not playing the game and contributing his share in this world crisis, should be compelled to go."

### THEY DON'T WORK HERE EITHER.

(New York Telegram.)

In Canada combination to increase the price of necessities of life, which term includes food, clothing, fuel and materials for manufacture, is now a criminal offence, punishable of \$5,000 fine and two years' imprisonment. It is made an offence also to limit facilities for the transportation, production, manufacture, storage and merchandising of such necessities. This is a war measure. Even in time of peace in this country we have somewhat similar laws to prevent trusts or the boosting of prices by combinations. But the laws don't work. Canada's experiment will be watched with interest.

### NATURE'S PERVERSITIES.

(Cleveland Leader.)

The undersized and ugly bronchos of the southwest endure readily the strain of conditions which kill bigger, stronger and more tractable horses. It is no trouble to raise mongrel puppies, but often the larger part of valuable litters from the most admired stocks of the best breeds of dogs cannot be saved by veterinary skill.

The most advanced types of civilized man suffer from numerous bodily ills which seem never to touch savages, immune in their filth and their ignorance. It is not easy to develop the brain beyond the average limits of human growth without impairing physical vitality and efficiency.

All the way up from simple vegetable forms of life the law of nature is that the most advanced types shall be hardest to preserve, multiply and develop. It is a vast handicap upon progress which often seems to mock the endeavors of mankind. It is as if effort more than achievement were the foremost purpose, the chief goal of man.