

Public Opinion

STERN PRESBYTERIANS.

(London Daily News.)

Have you noticed how large a place the Presbyterians are filling in the direction of the war? Sir Douglas Haig is a Presbyterian, of course, and Marshal Joffre is a member of the Reformed Church of France, which is nearest to the Presbyterian Church. General Pershing and his chief of staff, General Peyton C. March, are Presbyterians, while both President Wilson and Mr. Lansing, the secretary of state, are Presbyterian elders.

A BULL.

(Boston News Bureau.)

How an American naval officer, new to British waters, mistook a meat ship flag for the royal standard forms the subject of a good story told at the Naval Exhibition by Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the British Admiralty. The American had just boarded the flagship of an admiral, and remarked to Admiral Beatty of the British navy: "That is the first time I've seen the royal standard flying on the Grand Fleet."

"Where?" asked Admiral Beatty. "That is impossible."

For answer the American pointed to a flag with a white background with a blue bull on it, denoting that the ship was a meat carrier.

A LESSON OF THE WAR.

(British Soldier Writing in The Clarion, London.)

Socialists, when not engaged in dotting each other's eyes and calling each other "Traitors," for years past have spent their spare time in trying to point out that if the state should supplant the private company it would be better both for the producer and the consumer. Goods should be produced because they are wanted, not because some individual can make a profit from the deal. If we should arrange that the dockyards, the army and navy, the post office, the prisons and lunatic asylums and so on, out of which no profits are made, are run by the state, then why not the rest of the necessities of life? Quite so. And in a case of evident national crisis we have seen the state interfere to oust private enterprise where it has either failed or been uneconomical.

THE RIDDLE OF THE SEA.

(From London Opinion.)

The Germans know now that the Allies can shut them out of the civilized world by refusing to supply them with raw materials and by refusing to open the seas to their trade. They cannot live by taking in each other's washing. They must get out in order to live. Even if they were able to crush France and Italy, they would still be confronted with the sea-riddle. They know that Britain and the United States can hold the sea against them. They know that without the opening of the sea-gate they are doomed.

Without the sea Germany has no future, and she knows it. Liberty is the supreme high explosive. It will blow the German dream of world-domination to atoms. Liberty is the mine under the Kaiser's throne. When it is exploded there will be no more Kaiserism. I expect that explosion. May it come this year!

SACRILEGIOUS RELIGION.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

The task of ministering to spiritual needs of our men on the other side is not easy, and those who undertake it must be especially well equipped mentally. Most of them apparently are, and much praise has been accorded them by their unusual congregations. Many orthodox Christians would hold up their hands in horror upon the scriptural elaborations presented by these chaplains and this can be appreciated from perusal of the following excerpt of a marine chaplain's sermon, delivered during a halt in the march to the front trenches.

"Boys," he said, "I know the Bible says if your enemy smites you on one cheek turn unto him the other, but it doesn't say that if he is about to try to stick a bayonet into you, you should turn your back on him. It also says love your enemies. I agree. I have seen many dead Huns and believe me, men, there is nothing easier to do than to love a dead Hun. But never forget to pray. It eases the mind and gives you confidence. But between prayers, fight like Hell."

NO IDLE LADIES, EITHER.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

As in both Canada and the United States idleness is no longer to be permitted, why should not the law apply to women equally with men? Of course, if industry is good for one it is good for the other, and the efforts of both are needed to help in winning the war for freedom. What the lady with the lap dog thinks about the proposal is another matter, but undoubtedly we are rapidly approaching the time when the idle woman will be no more tolerated than the idle man.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

(Toronto Weekly Sun.)

The Toronto Reorganization Committee of the manufacturers offers a price of \$500 for the best essay on the housing problem. In the meantime the matter seems as plain as anything can be. Toronto, Galt, and the rest are overcrowded owing to the high wages of labor in war manufactures. Since there is no immigration from abroad, except of Chinese, it may be assumed that the houses are emptying in the country and in the villages and towns in which manufactures fail. There is, on the whole, we should say, a steady depletion of the farm population, notwithstanding all the puffing and blowing to turn the people the other way.

BRITISH LABOR.

(New York Tribune.)

In England, as elsewhere, labor is overwhelmingly loyal and patriotic. If this were not so England would have failed in the war long ago. If it were not so France could not have saved the world for democracy. If it were not so in this country we should not be now in the thick of the work at Armageddon. England's rebellious labor minority is more articulate and political and troublesome than the corresponding element in this country. That is owing partly to circumstances, partly to the fact that the volunteering in the beginning diluted the spirit, and largely, besides, to the fact that in Great Britain there was no Samuel Gompers.

THE STAR OF HOPE.

(Belleville, Ontario.)

Over on the west front fights for his beloved Canada a man who has served seven years in Kingston penitentiary. He is not a private, or a corporal, or a sergeant. He is not a lieutenant, or a captain. He is a lieutenant-colonel in command of a famous battalion. He enlisted as a private after he passed out of the gloomy portals of that grim pile of rock and steel that seems to deaden the very air of the community, a place wherein men are deprived of life and in some case transformed into mere negative animals. This man was not one of those whom imprisonment killed; neither his incarceration nor the knowledge of his wrong could kill his spirit. War gave him his chance. He risked his life for other men. He dominated his battalion. He won back his good name and added lustre to his country's history. He will come back honored. At this man who shall dare point the finger of contempt or suspicion?

TOMMY ADOPTS HYMN OF HATE.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

Was ever a nation like this nation, or even a race like this race? What army or group of armies could conquer an army of soldiers that could turn a deeply hated enemy's hymn of hate into a ditty for comic use on a grand scale? The famous German Hymn of Hate (which its author is ashamed of, we are told), has become a sort of "Yankee Doodle" to the British Tommy. "Yankee Doodle" was originally a song of ridicule sung by the British troops who went over the seas to conquer the rebellious American colonies, but after their final surrender was played "at them" by American bands. And so it became a national song never rivalled except by "Dixie."

It is said to be an extraordinary sight to see and hear a British regiment on the march singing the "Hymn of Hate" with all their might, and at the chorus to hear a clear tenor ring out, "Whom Do We Hate?" and then the whole battalion replying like thunder—"England!" The day will come when a German will writhe to hear his Hymn of Hate singing itself blithely from the throat of any jolly Englishman.

RHYMING IT.

(New York Sun.)

Haig has the tanks, and Foch has the Yanks, and they both wallop Wilhelm and his blank, blank, blanks.

A COMPARISON IN SLAUGHTER.

(New York World.)

It is stated that a survey of a track of woods south of the Marne where the Germans struck the American lines last Monday, reveals over 5,000 German dead. This is nearly double the Union killed on the Union side in ten days of fighting around Spottsylvania court house in 1864, which so horrified the north. Germany is bleeding to a degree probably unexampled in modern times.

THE FIGHTING MEN.

(Le Midaris, France.)

Let us acclaim the American soldiers, but never forget the British sailors without whom Germany would continue to utter sarcastic remarks on the vain menace and fruitless efforts of America. She already knows, and will know better tomorrow, all that this menace means. The day when the American army gains the big success to which we are looking forward let us pay homage to the British sailors, those unseen and silent conquerors who are guarding the seas for us.

PUBLIC SERVICE, PRIVATE GAIN?

(Forest Free Press.)

If there is any one country in the world, more than another, where the railway service should be under Government control, that country is Canada. From the public treasury and our natural resources we have contributed sufficient wealth to build all the railways in the country, and yet we allow them to be operated for private gain. The war, which is opening our eyes to many of our other follies, may yet teach us to take a sensible view of the whole question of public service.

ENGLAND'S EFFICIENCY.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

No fault can be found with the efficiency with which England is doing her recruiting in this country. No other country that has nationals in the United States is making half the effort that Great Britain is, to see that all of her sons render patriotic service at this time. Britain is showing in this the same sort of tenacity and thoroughness she has shown all the way through. One of the real causes of the war was the mistake Germany made when she assumed the British bulldog had degenerated into a sleepy hound, sun-basking and fire-loving.

NO EXCUSE FOR NEUTRALITY.

The Philadelphia Ledger, a paper which represents a strong Irish constituency, and which has always stoutly championed the Irish cause, says: "It is vitally necessary at this time that American public opinion should have the courage and clarity of vision to assure Mr. Lloyd George, his Cabinet, and the British Parliament that it stands squarely behind him and them in the firm belief that there is no conceivable adequate excuse for any people who profess to love liberty and to fight oppression to stand aside in indifference when the united democracies of the world are in the death grip of a still undecided battle."

FORTUNES GIVEN AWAY.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

Culm, once considered waste by inhabitants of Hawley, Pa., is now being turned into dollars as quickly as trucks can haul it to the numerous factories and mills in neighboring manufacturing cities. Culm, or small particles of coal, has for years been dumped wherever a large vacant field could be had. Coal companies were glad to get rid of it.

Unknowningly, many farmers were practically handed a fortune, for when the coal shortage made itself felt, the burning of culm was tried and the experiment proved successful.

Many farmers had piles 100 feet high, which are now being sold to trucking companies on a sliding scale, ranging from \$2 to \$3 a ton. Thousands of dollars have thus been made by those who several years ago would have considered themselves fortunate had the culm been taken away without any charge.