

Public Opinion

PROMISES ARE COSTLY.

(Providence Journal.)

A breach of promise suit for \$1,000,000 has been started in New York. Promises seem to be about as expensive as everything else these days, whether one lives up to them or not.

BAR LUXURIES.

(Rochester Post-Express.)

The world has just now far less need of luxuries than of necessities, and no person can be criticized who denies himself the one in order to give the other to people in need.

PRODUCER VS. CONSUMER.

(Toronto Telegram.)

Canadianism has been perverted more and more into a system of taking care of the producer and leaving the consumer to take care of himself. The desire of the milling companies to inflate the price of their securities on the market is much more conspicuous than the desire of the milling companies to pay the farmer a fair price for wheat or to charge the consumer a fair price for flour. Greed on the part of the manufacturers and Ottawa's failure to restrain their greed has weakened the whole principle of Canadianism in this country's trade and industry.

SUGAR FLOUR.

While the brainiest men of Europe are working over the war situation, new geniuses are arising in the ranks of the manufacturers, farmers and ordinary workmen to solve the food supply problems. In Northern France a new flour is being made from sugar beets. It is used for bread and for cattle food, as well as for certain brewing processes, says the Popular Science Monthly.

The fresh beet pulp is poured into a vat into which currents of farm air are introduced for drying. Then it is passed through a series of gratings which rotate one above another. After this the pulp is delivered into compartments in which the temperature of the air is gradually increased to about 250 degrees Fahrenheit. It is then sufficiently free from moisture to be pulverized and used as flour.

SENDING HIS "BIT."

(London Express.)

An Englishman formerly at Liverpool in the cotton trade, but now in business in New Orleans, United States, has sent £500 to Mr. Lloyd George as a gift to the nation, stating that, though lame and over military age, he wishes to do his "bit." He asked in return for a letter bearing the Premier's signature.

Acknowledging the gift, Mr. Lloyd George writes: "I am deeply touched by the patriotic spirit which prompted you to make this sacrifice at a time when the mother country is so vitally in need of all support."

WHEN THE SOLDIER RETURNS.

(The Square Deal.)

For which will the government do the most? For the returned soldier or for the land speculator? The land speculator is specially favored, inasmuch as he escapes with a single land tax. Will we treat the returned soldier in the same way, or will we increase the soldier's taxes for every improvement he makes on his land?

The industrious classes must now pay all the taxation, for idle speculation furnishes nothing for the support of society, and they must support the speculator besides. When the soldier returns, will he have to do the same thing, namely, work for the enrichment of the speculator?

Will the government do as well for the returned soldiers as it did for the manufacturers? Before the war the manufacturers had a free list of raw materials. Will the soldier be able to import his raw clothes, his raw tools, etc., free from duty, or will he be subject to the same impost and extortion as the laboring classes have seen, namely, often to surrender his third dollar. Will he have to take three dollars to market to buy two dollars' worth of goods? Will he also have to add something to that to maintain the luxurious establishments of the ground lords?

When the war is over, what will the veterans find to welcome them? Will it be a lot of speculators to make the land dear, and a lot of favored manufacturers, enabled by law to make the goods dear—a double grind between the upper and nether millstones? Will it be monopolists to right of them, monopolists to left of them, and monopolists to the front of them?

WHY THIS IS AMERICA'S WAR.

(World's Work.)

This is America's war. The men who founded this Government hoped that some day its principles would encompass the earth, and from that day to this every American who has known his heritage has hoped that every able people would take unto itself its own government. The distrust of kings and all the system of privileges that hang about them is bred deep in the bone with us. Perhaps in some cases the distrust is unreasonable, but fundamentally it is right. Nearly a hundred years ago President Monroe enunciated his famous doctrine. One of its main tenets was and is that any extension of monarchy on this side of the ocean is a menace to our free institutions. It has become even clearer lately that any spread of the Prussian autocratic power was a menace to free institutions all over the world, ours as well as all others. If the Monroe Doctrine was wise in its day the war for democracy is wise now.

THE WILL TO WIN.

(Chicago Tribune.)

The United States must win this war. We do not need to flatter ourselves that our allies without us, would lose it. For our purposes it does not matter whether they would or not. The United States must win it, in some fashion, some time, whether nations crack and the skies fall.

In military psychology there is only one spirit that is useful. It is the will to conquer, the will to win.

We must win, and if we express our determination in our own way that will hurt no one so long as the determination is there.

We've GOT to lick 'em. C

THE PROHIBITION DRIVE.

(Boston Monitor.)

There appears to be popular agreement on the point that the United States Government has power to order the closing of the retail drinking places of the country as a war measure. It is generally admitted also that the United States has the power, as a war measure, to close the distilleries and the breweries.

Aside from the harm the liquor traffic is doing the country as a demoralizing agency, it is eating into the food supply at a rate that is little appreciated by the public. Of the grain raised in the United States last year, 118,000,000 bushels went into drink rather than into food. From the statistics prepared by those who have carried on an investigation into the subject, it is shown that the distillers of the nation are turning into spirits every year 32,000,000 bushels of corn, 3,000,000 bushels of rye, and 5,000,000 bushels of wheat, oats, and other grain, while the breweries consume 10,000,000 bushels of corn, 37,500,000 bushels of barley, and 12,000,000 bushels of rice. To the grain used in the manufacture of liquors, 116,000,000 bushels of wheat, oats, and other grain, while hops must be added. It may be held that all of these would not enter into the food supply, but at least the labor employed in producing them would do so. Moreover, it is thoroughly established that liquor is the worst foe of human energy, and the greatest deterrent to activity, and consequently to industry, of which there is to-day any knowledge.

All efforts to compromise with the liquor traffic have proved futile in peace; compromise would be still more certain to fail in war, when only positive policies count and win.

WILLING TO LEARN.

(New York World.)

Two years ago the air would have been heavy with the shrieks of cross-roads ranters affirming that one American could whip five Germans, and proclaiming that any sort of an American army that set foot on European soil would march straight to Berlin. Contrary to our reputation, we have become a modest people, at least in war matters. We are willing to learn, and a country willing to learn has already proceeded far on the road to victory.

NEED OF THRIFT.

(New York Sun.)

Waste and extravagance, detestable always, menace the welfare of nations and the very existence of democracy to-day. Every argument in favor of thrift based on individual well being remains unimpaired and compelling; and such arguments are re-enforced by the supreme obligation imposed on all the men, women and children of the United States to devote all their energies to winning the war.

THE LAST WAR.

The attitude of France towards the war has perhaps seldom been expressed more exactly than in the following simple words of a Frenchman recorded by a recent writer: It had always been thought, this writer says, that the glory of victory filled a large part of the mind of the French soldier. My friend did not think so. They would go on fighting to the end—nothing could alter their resolve. When victory came they would welcome it, for their land would be redeemed, but there would be no talk of glory. The real thing about victory would be finality, the recognition that such a horror as the present struggle could never come into the world again.

MARSHAL JOFFRE.

(Chicago Tribune.)

We like to read of Joffre's longing for peace and for the little farm in the Pyrenees. That sounds like Grant, like Lincoln, like Washington. None of these our great men was saturated in the war glamour. They were republican soldiers, making war because they must, for a great cause, and hoping it would bring them not glory but the consciousness of a service well done and a welcome return to the friendly preoccupations of peace.

Although Marshal Joffre has spent all his life at the trade of arms, we think of him as an illustrious servant of a free state and a citizen, like ourselves, who would be glad to turn his sword into a ploughshare and till his quiet acres in republican security and content.

Marshal Joffre is the sort of hero we understand and are glad to honor. He represents for us a republic reluctantly in arms, as our republic is. If he can sense behind the carrier of language the quality of our welcome he will feel at home in this foreign land.

TWO ARE ONE AGRICULTURALLY.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

There is practical reciprocity between the United States and Canada now, so far as foodstuffs are concerned. If an obstacle to the free exchange of products remains, it is likely soon to be removed. Therefore, the United States and Canada will plough, harrow, and plant this spring, and reap and gather, next fall, to all intents and purposes, as one nation and with one great object in view. The interest of the United States in Canada's planting will be as keen as the interest it will feel in planting on its own side of the line, and vice versa. Canada has sent hundreds of thousands of its young men to the front. It is, therefore, in greater need of material for farm labor than the United States. The United States cannot help the Dominion farmer without helping itself.

EAT LESS AND DO MORE.

(Chicago Tribune.)

A fat nation is no good. Lean nations accomplish things. Courage is not fat bellied. Intellect cannot be fat headed. The otiose life finds place in the adipose body.

We should eat less and think more, have smaller girth and larger chests, less on the hips and more on the thorax, have fewer potatoes at dinner and more books after dinner, more exercise and less chewing.

A strong person can subsist on a little oatmeal and philosophy and outwalk, outtalk, outthink, and in every way outdo the person who travels the long route from soup to nuts and goes to sleep afterwards as an anaconda full of sheep or monkeys might.

Life is a lean affair of hungry appetites and ambitions. They are best kept hungry. Then they stimulate to earnest performance. The fat bellied man does nothing but eat and sleep. We cannot support Esau any longer. The god of the American nation is not its belly. It is a god of muscle, with strong lines in its visage and determination in its body expression.

The regeneration of the American nation begins at the dinner table. We need stoutness in soul not stoutness in fat. Eat less and do more. Grow more above the neck and less below the stomach.

Dinner table reform will preserve the food supply, preserve the morale, help the national courage, and put things over.

OUR SYSTEM WRONG.

(Toronto Globe.)

The British Government raised \$2,865,000,000 by taxation in the past twelve months. The greater part of it came from profits and dividends. The greater part of Canada's national revenue is taken from wages.