

Public Opinion

ARE OUR WOMEN FAT?

(Chicago Tribune).

Years ago our school geographies gave us the meager but startling information that "the French are fond of dancing and light wines." A Swedish artist who spent a month in New York City has gone home with the impression that the American women are all fat and dance too much. Also that their skirts are too short. It will really be too bad if his impression is accepted as the truth in Europe. The artist must have looked in at the dansant given by munition makers' daughters.

Vital statistics do not bear out the Swede's unfavorable verdict. They do not touch on the matter of skirts or dancing, it is true, but they give the average weight of American women as 109½ pounds, ringside, and the immaculate creases in the trousers of the American young man bear testimony to the truth of the figures.

We have, of course, some adipose women, but the dancing observed by our critic is practised for the purpose of reducing their too, too solid flesh. This and the valuable advice of Dr. Donnelly are rapidly transforming them from spheroids to sylphides.

As to the shortness of their skirts—well, who objects to that?

NATIONAL ECONOMY.

(Monthly Commercial Letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce).

Even although their patriotism be undoubted nevertheless many Canadians are aiding the enemy by thoughtlessly frittering away the profits and earnings due to a prosperity which may be suddenly arrested by the advent of peace. The Trade Returns continue to furnish evidence of the importation of many unnecessary articles and, to the extent that this is the case, our financial ability to resist the enemy is lessened. The words of Sir Charles Addis, in his address on "The Means of War Finance" apply to Canada as much as to the United Kingdom, when he says that people "do not understand that by the manner of their personal expenditure they may be determining whether the horrors of the conflict are to be prolonged or the blessings of peace anticipated. There does not appear to be as yet any general or adequate recognition of the special responsibility for the right use of war earnings attaching to those whose prosperity depends upon the continued sacrifice of life and limb by their fellow-countrymen in the field. It is surely a small thing to ask of those who are restrained from joining the fighting line by the disabilities of age, or infirmity, or sex to make some sacrifice for those who are fighting their battles for them. Sacrifice! let us call it what it is — a privilege, perhaps the only privilege left to us."

LEST WE FORGET.

(St. Thomas Daily Times.)

Both the Dominion and Ontario Governments should continue to press for the refining and final preparation for the market here of all nickel mined in this Province; not merely that acquired for the British and Canadian markets, but all nickel whatever its destination. Doubtless this cannot be arranged in a day; it will take time for huge refining plants do not grow up in a night. The desired change may not be fully effected until the war's close, for the war may be over sooner than the erection and perfecting of a refining plant with all its departments can be accomplished. But during the war steps can be taken and policies matured to effect that result at the earliest possible period.

BLACKLIST RETALIATORY MEASURES.

(New York Journal of Commerce.)

"The proposal to strike back at Great Britain because of her exclusion of American tobacco is about as reasonable as would be a counter move in the United Kingdom to retaliate against the United States for the prohibition by certain commonwealths of this Republic of the sale of Scotch and Irish whiskey. The sumptuary laws of other countries may hurt us, just as ours has hurt the wine-growers and distillers of Europe, but it is a new thing to have such a grievance made the basis of commercial retaliation."

WHY NOT A BLACKLIST?

(Monetary Times).

Two months ago, the British government established a blacklist of United States firms with which citizens of the United Kingdom were forbidden to trade. Canada has failed as yet to follow the example. Action should have been taken by the Dominion government immediately upon receipt of the official blacklist from the Imperial government. If it is illegal and undesirable for citizens of Great Britain to trade with these enemy firms, surely it is equally undesirable for Canadians to trade with them. Yet, trading is being done with some of the firms. There is no blacklist in Canada.

THE TEACHER: THE TAUGHT: THE TEST:

(Toronto Globe.)

"Back to the same old grind!" That commonplace of disheartenment expresses too often the working philosophy of many a school teacher's life. Trustees can be inconsiderate, parents so ungrateful, pupils so unresponsive. And a city school, with its medley of problems and personalities, is, in its way, often as heart-breaking and hopeless as a school in the back country is monotonous and deadening.

And yet, is that all there is in a teacher's life? Is it only, or is it mainly, "the same old grind"?

Just as the words of that question were being set down, the door opened, and there entered the editorial office a man whose name and services are known to every reader of the Globe. To his name cling academic degrees that denote learning, and the record of his services is high as a leader of men.

"The same old grind," is it?" he said. "My mind goes back to a pioneer school in a most primitive Scottish settlement on the River down in Quebec. No, you have nothing like it in Ontario—a group of young ragamuffins taught by a strip of a girl hardly out of her teens, who was paid the munificent sum of \$140 a year. Perhaps it would answer to your 'same old grind,' but across the continent I meet men who were boys with me in that school. Some of us have done things in science, some in philosophy, some in medicine, some in law, some in theology, some in education, and, best of all, most of us in useful human service. But—and here's the thing—every one of us, if you touch the right cord, will answer back with the name of that woman whose soul went into our young blood, and from whom we learned things that have been wrought into the warp and woof of our manhood lives. Say something for us, therefore, to the teachers who think it only "the same old grind." Tell them that those who were taught and touched by the real teacher, even in the back-country schools, will not fail when the testing comes."

There you have it—the Teacher: the Taught: the Testing. But the Quebec school and school teacher have their match and mate in a thousand districts throughout Ontario. Scarcely a man of mid-life who reads these sentences but can duplicate that experience: Some unfamed teacher in some wayside school put into the "same old grind" some spark of personality that disturbed the clod, and when the testing came the man did not forget.

Here is a case in point. In an editorial on July 15 The Globe made use of some sentences written to his mother in Toronto by a young officer at the front in France the night before he went into action. The letter was to be sent in case he did not survive. He was found half-buried in the debris, his right hand still clasping the lever of the machine gun of which he took charge when his man was killed. In his letter were two lines of poetry. Many inquiries have been made as to their authorship, one from British Columbia, one from Newfoundland. The verse will be recognized as from Macaulay's "Horatius":

"Then out spake brave Horatius,
The Captain of the Gate:
'To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temples of his gods?'"

Oswald Grant committed to memory that poem as it appeared in one of the public school Readers. The only public school he ever attended was in Dawson, in the Yukon. His teacher probably often complain-

RETALIATORY MEASURE.

(New York Commercial).

"Let us face the cold, hard fact that we cannot make much progress in foreign trade without the good will of the Entente Allies. We may lose that good will by a series of pin-pricks for all the participants in this great war have frayed tempers and will resent anything that savors of enemy suggestion. We cannot afford to quarrel with our best customers over things that are the merest trifles when compared with the Lusitania massacre which we have condoned by lapse of time. There is as much difference between the injuries inflicted upon us by the British and by the Germans as there is between a man stepping on another's toe and a man cutting another's throat from ear to ear. Such comparisons are inevitable, and they tend to produce deep resentment. Fortunately for us, the President is not likely to strike out blindly with the new weapon Congress has placed in his hand."

WHEN PEACE WILL COME.

(The Outlook, New York).

Two weeks after the outbreak of the war The Outlook said: "We believe with Hegel that God had a plan and that history is nothing but the working out of His plan in human affairs. And we believe that the Austrian Prime Minister and the German Emperor have made a fatal mistake in leaving this truth out of their reckoning in their endeavor to destroy the great democratic movement in Europe." That faith we repeat. The end of this war will come with the end of militarism, not before. And the end of militarism will come when the German people realize the fatal blunder of the war lords, the falsity of their philosophy and the futile malice of their purpose. It may come only gradually as the wearing away of the German forces convinces the German people that militarism has failed; it may come suddenly with a disaster to German arms so overwhelming that no explanation can destroy its effect on the mind of the German people. But it will come in Germany, as it came in our own country, when the ambitious hopes of the leaders are destroyed and the people awake to the truth.

CANNOT DO TOO MUCH FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

(Nelson News).

Nothing can be too good for the soldiers of British Columbia when they return from the front. To care for the maimed and make provision to place the unwounded in suitable occupations with the greatest possible benefit to themselves and the least possible derangement of general conditions is a work which calls for the exercise of the highest ability British Columbians can devote to the work.

British Columbia's soldiers are offering to make the supreme sacrifice for the freedom of the empire, the maintenance of British ideals and the safety of their country. Too much cannot be done for those who return.

MORE WAR CONTRACTS.

(Canadian Textile Journal).

This contract placing activity again calls attention to the fact that we are taking no part in the outfitting of our troops after they leave our shores. It is difficult to find out why this is the case, but we infer that it is for military reasons, rather than due to any lethargy on the part of our manufacturers or military authorities. The outfitting of our troops abroad would be an enormous undertaking for Canadian industry. The wide variety of necessary supplies effects all lines of industry, but these supplies are already being manufactured here for the troops while they are in Canada, and it appears quite within the realm of possibility that our industries could take care of the entire business of outfitting the troops at home and abroad if called upon to do so. We are manufacturing underwear, socks, leather goods, etc., for the Italian and French Governments. Why not for the Canadian troops abroad? The matter is worthy of much more consideration than it appears to have received from either our military authorities or our industrial organizations.

ed of "the same old grind," but when the testing came the tether was stronger than life, even as the Bible truths of boyhood were deeper than common speech.

And who can tell how many others play the man in the testing at life's wide battle-front because of the teacher's fidelity in "the same old grind"!