

Public Opinion

A REVISED DIET. (New York World).

Why should anybody eat potatoes at \$1 a peck when rice can be bought for 4 to 8 cents a pound? One way to curb rapacious food purveyors is to revise diet. It's the surest way to revise prices.

AMERICA HARDEST HIT. (Boston Transcript).

It is against American shipping and American travel across the Atlantic that the blockade has turned out to be a tremendous success.

GERMANY MUST BE CRUSHED. (New York Tribune).

There is no chance left of peaceful compromise. We cannot hope to re-establish the principle to which we are committed until Germany is reduced to impotence and consequently to reason. Her mood now is one of madness. Force is the only thing which she respects. She will show no repentance for her manifold crimes and brutalities, until her present power and spirit are crushed.

WHAT IS LOVE?

A New Orleans paper offered prizes for the best answers to the question, "What is love?" There were 23,761 persons who thought they could answer it, but the first prize went to an Alabama woman, who wrote: "Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness into service, and from solitude into kinship with all humanity." The second prize was given for this offering: "Love is a chisel that carves into soft outlines the graphite block of stern reality." The sentiment: "Love is what makes red hair golden, white hair silver, and no hair a noble brow," won third prize.

DUKE'S SON, COOK'S SON.

(A. G. G., in London Daily News).

But the fierce necessities of the war are teaching Mr. Jones and all of us a new conception of society and its relations to property. The private interest, the class interest and the property interest are found to be subordinate to the common interest. Whether he likes it or not, Mr. Smith must cease making bicycles and turn all his machinery to the manufacture of shells. Mr. Robinson has built up a nice little business in a prosperous thoroughfare, has a wife and three children and no taste for slaughter. No matter; he is of military age and must close his shop and go to the war. And with him goes Mr. Brown of the Stock Exchange. He has informed the tribunal that he has an income of £5,000 a year, expecting that that handsome sum would distinguish him from mere ordinary people like Robinson, who has only £250 a year. But in this reeling world he discovers that all the old social and property discriminations are waste paper. He is just a man among men, subject like all the rest to an authority, vast, impersonal, tyrannic. He had thought that society existed for property, privilege and influence, and he finds that, instead, these things exist for society which, in its necessity, takes possession with a stroke of the pen and without so much as a "bye-your-leave."

STRENGTH OF ARTILLERY STEEL. (Wall Street Journal).

Modern high-power guns could not be built without steel strong enough to resist pressures beyond ordinary comprehension. At each discharge of field pieces, for less than three-tenths of a second the pressure exceeds 20 tons to the square inch, and speed of projectiles leaving the muzzle is more than 2,500 feet a second. Energy developed is placed at about half a million foot-pounds; considering the cannon a motor working during an exceedingly short time, its rating is about 20,000,000 horse power.

Not only must the metal be able to resist these strains time after time, but to do so under unfavorable conditions, such as high temperatures produced by the explosives. And not only must metal of the gun be as strong as this, but also that of the shell. The shell of a French "75" supports a pressure estimated at 17 tons, work of the device that takes up the recoil reaches about 12 tons to the square inch, and the mount neutralizes at each discharge about two tons.

It has been possible to test in the machine shops the pieces of a battery that has fired several thousand shots and to show that they have suffered not the slightest deformation.

BY ORDER OF GERMANY. (New York World.)

Over three weeks ago President Wilson went before Congress to announce that he had severed diplomatic relations with Germany because of the imperial government's proclamation of ruthless submarine warfare.

What has happened is that the Atlantic ports of the United States are blockaded by Germany, and our shipowners are afraid to assert their legal rights. Even the American Line ships which carry the United States mail are all held in port by order of the German government.

We are doing precisely what Germany commanded us to do.

Every day that American ships are afraid to put to sea because of German defiance of law and civilization, our rights are invaded, our honor is sullied and our power as a great nation is challenged before the world.

THE BRITISH LOAN.

(Boston News Bureau).

Getting five billion dollars of new war loan money, where at best three billion had been hoped for, is the most convincing testimonial yet offered of British determination to "carry on" with the fight, and of British purse power behind that determination.

This five billions thus pledged is the more notable because it follows practically fifteen billion already borrowed in various forms by the government for war purposes and also an increase of taxation collected so far during the war of two and one-half billions more,--taxation to date during the war having been \$4,900,000,000, or more than double the \$2,375,000,000 that would have been raised at pre-war rates.

The greatest war loan raised in Germany totalled three billion and the greatest total of subscribers was 5,279,000. Britain has by impressive margin out-distanced both achievements.

Germany in five loans has raised nearly twelve billion; Britain has now similarly raised slightly over ten billion. German short-term borrowing is about \$750,000,000; British, now largely refunded, has been nearly \$10,000,000,000.

The contrast in money-raising power is emphatic.

THE PINCH OF HUNGER.

(Wall Street Journal).

When not abusing her enemies for "starving" her people, official Germany is occupied in assuring the world she cannot be starved into submission. It is not to be expected that the whole country can be subjected to such a famine as Germany imposed upon Paris in 1870. But for two years the people have been on a continuously diminishing diet. Their hardships increase from month to month, and the future promises worse things.

Early in January the general staff appealed to the people to cease complaints engendered by hardships. In the same week the Berlin Sick Benefit Association, in which working classes are insured, reported that the unusual illness was due to inadequate nourishment. About the same time a Geneva despatch said the prisons at Vienna were filled with women and children who had stolen food. The Hungarian food dictator also said grain at his disposal was 15 per cent of the needs to August 15.

The 1916 potato crop is two-fifths the ordinary, the wheat yield is small, and the imperial commission permits but 25 per cent of the usual amount of barley for malting. Crops usually fed to livestock are not permitted to be so used. As livestock, like humans, cannot exist without food, the inference is plain.

Less than a month ago the German food dictator pointed out that the most careful use of food was necessary until the next harvest. And what of the next harvest? The Vorwaerts summed it up in these words: "The soil has been sucked dry. Agricultural activity is at a standstill."

Phosphate is one of the three plant foods that must be supplied to the soil, and nitrate is another. These two are not mined in Germany. Of the former it normally imports 364,000 tons a year from the United States. Deprived of these essential plant foods for three seasons in succession, what kind of a harvest can the thin soil of Germany be expected to produce in 1917? If the present outlook is dark, what will it be with the realities of the next winter?

Correspondence

THE EASTERN MILLERS — A REPLY TO MISS CORA HIND.

To the Editor of the Journal of Commerce:

It is hard to understand what object the Commercial and Agricultural Editor of the Winnipeg Free Press had in writing as she did with reference to Eastern millers in her article published by the Journal of Commerce, in the issue of February 20th, as one does not like to think that Miss Hind or the Journal of Commerce desire deliberately to injure those concerned.

She wants to know why the Eastern millers did not provide themselves with wheat before close of navigation to fill contracts taken in November. The answer is simply that they did so. The contracts given in November were for December shipment, and the wheat to fill them all went forward from Fort William by water.

During the third week in December, further contracts were made, calling for January and February shipment, and later on for March and April, and it is for these deliveries that the wheat is required.

What more right has the Western miller to ship his flour than the Eastern miller to get wheat to make his?

Even supposing he had orders in November, for say January or February shipment, he would have to compete with the Western miller in securing the orders, and would have to base his price on December wheat, which, during the month of November, averaged more than six cents per bushel lower than November.

Does Miss Hind know positively that the British Government have only bought 1, 2 and 3 Northern wheat? If so, will she explain why that Government, in their specification for extraction, stipulates the percentage for all grades from 1 Hard to No. 6?

Does she know positively that none of the Western mills are using nothing below Number 3?

Does she know that this flour is being bought upon a standard, and that millions of bags have been shipped and used with every satisfaction, and that every single car shipped is inspected and tested by men specially qualified to pass upon the flour, and appointed by the Government for that purpose?

One would think that filling the position she does, in all fairness she would consider more carefully her facts rather than apparently give voice to the sentiments of someone who is prejudiced against the milling industry in this country and leave false impressions which can do no good to anyone, but on the other hand may cause an injury to those who are innocent of any wrong.

FAIR PLAY.

BOLSTER HIM UP.

(Wall Street Journal).

Stand behind the President especially when he leans over backwards.

"THERE'S A REASON."

In an interesting editorial article on "War and the Tariff," The Public (New York), points out that sugar in New Zealand (where none is grown is now 5½ cents per pound, whereas in Australia (where it is grown) the price is 7 cents. The reason is: in Australia foreign sugar is on the tariff list; in New Zealand it is free!

GERMANY'S WAR DEBT.

(Ottawa Citizen).

The present annual interest on German war loans runs close to 550 million dollars. Hitherto it has been paid by subscriptions to war loans. In other words, money subscribed for fresh loans has been used to pay the interest on the older loans. That is a satisfactory way to keep a business looking prosperous and is in great favor among manipulators of what are known as "blind pools." We had an experience in Canada a few years ago with financing of this sort in the case of Sheldon, the Montreal "wizard." But it is obvious that every new loan must lose more and more value in diverting part of its proceeds to the interest on the older ones. The German minister asks for a credit of so many million marks, but does not mention that a large part of it is to be devoted to keep other loans floating. In turn, the new loan must be sustained by another new one, and so on until the end comes. But with peace such financing must stop. Where, then, will the German people find themselves? Instead of indemnities from her enemies the Teuton government will likely be considering the possible effect of repudiation of debt. That is, at this time, the only escape from crushing, nay, unbearable, burden after the war.