

Printers' Pie

A Page of Press Opinion, Wit and Humor

THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The Times, London, reports that the holder of a wine and spirit license at Widnes has been fined £300 for selling whiskey above the maximum price. The information is of a surprising nature to dwellers in this part of the world, where the consumer is only considered insofar as he is a subject to be deprived of the opportunity to indulge in spirituous beverages. Over there the State regards him as an individual to be protected in his drinking as other recognized habits.

A FINE MOTTO.

(Vancouver Province.)

Probably the most appreciated and reassuring welcome arch yet erected is the one bearing the inscription, "Your old jobs are waiting you, boys."

RUSSIA VERSUS MEXICO.

(Indianapolis Star.)

The President's opposition to sending a large force into Russia reminds us of what we have been doing to clear up the Mexican situation.

WORKS BOTH WAYS.

(Keokuk Daily Gate City.)

What a lot of our people do not see is that when private capital is restricted from entering private enterprises, the liberty of labor to choose where it will be employed is restricted even more.

GOLF AND WAR STUDY.

(Los Angeles Times.)

Now we know where Marshal Foch got his strategy. The great Frenchman plays golf—not a professional game, but in a safe and sane amateur manner, and he hates to lose a ball. Also he hates to waste time from the game to hunt up the missing. So after the day was over he would take his flashlight and prow over the links after the strays. Almost invariably he would come in with more balls than he started with. No one could identify the derelicts, and so they went into his box. That was how it was that the Germans were surprised so often, and how so many of them were rounded up in the dark. A careful golfer should make a good tactician.

MAN'S INGRATITUDE TO BIRDS.

(Cincinnati Times-Star.)

An English scientist recently gave the world some startling figures concerning insects on this planet. There are, he says, more than 300,000 known varieties, with perhaps twice that number remaining unclassified. Some of these insects produce sextillions of individuals from a single pair in a year. Some consume 200 times their weight in food per day.

If the insect population were permitted to increase without restraint the world would speedily become a desolate waste. Man would be starved out. The insects "would become the true lords of the universe."

Between man and this state of desolation stand some natural barriers. One of these is the army of birds which feed on insects. With the destruction of the birds, who stand guard over our fields and forests, a catastrophe beyond human imagination to conceive would ensue.

"WHITE MEN" AND "GERMANS."

(New York Times.)

In Africa the natives distinguish between "white men" and "Germans." That is a sufficient commentary on German colonial rule, whose cruelties to the subject populations, whose intrigues and military preparations against neighbor possessions, are notorious. They must not be returned to Germany. The voice of their peoples would forbid that.

HOLDING UP THE TRAINS.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

Those long, tight skirts which seem to be the style just now are said, for obvious reasons, to be delaying train service. Guess the railroads will have to meet the crisis by issuing new schedules.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

(Toronto Globe.)

A British House of Commons without Asquith, Grey, Simon, Samuel, McKenna, Runciman, and Harcourt is intellectually weaker than its predecessor, but men of this calibre are never long out of public life in Britain. There are always constituencies ready to rise above parochialism and welcome distinguished outsiders. Few eminent British public men even live in the constituencies which they represent.

MURDER BY FOREIGNERS.

(London Advertiser.)

Of eight murders executed in Canada during the last twelve months, seven were of foreign birth. Three of the slayers were from sections of the Balkans, one from Galicia, two from Armenia and one from Sicily. These facts point to a grave problem that must be met at once. How to keep out this class of immigrant should be given the closest consideration of the immigration authorities in view of an early and large exodus from the old world to the new.

"INFANTS" MUST BE SUPERVIZED.

(St. Paul Daily News.)

It is reasonably certain that the nation will never return to the good old days when tariffs were the parents of a multitude of tribute-bearing trusts. Since war has given us experience in levying taxes on war profits and excess profits, it seems entirely reasonable that any congress which desires to protect "infant industries" will be forced by public opinion to make sure that only reasonable protection is given—and that the "infants" need it.

This can be obtained by a confiscatory tax on profits above a reasonable rate earned because of tariff protection. It is generally recognized now that business which accepts favors from the nation must accept supervision, and submit to taxation of unreasonable profits resulting from this favored treatment.

PEACE USES FOR MASKS.

(London Daily Mail.)

It is announced that a number of the gas masks lately used by your men in France to protect them against the poison clouds of the Hun, are now to be distributed among British collieries. In the past many a life has been lost in the pits owing to the life-saving apparatus having to be fetched from a distance, but now an ample supply of masks will be ready everywhere for those who have to descend into the deadly fire damp.

At the present moment the British Government is the owner of the most gigantic accumulation of war material that the world ever saw. Within the next year or two most of this will be disposed of, and its disposal affords material for the most interesting speculation. Lorries, motor-cars, ships, munition factories—their future use is obvious, but what about all this mass of explosives which must be in stock and which cannot be kept on account of deterioration? Thousands of tons of picric acid for instance—what is to become of this?

Some might be employed for dyeing purposes; doctors could make use of a small portion for disinfecting the skin before operating. Picric acid is useful on the land as a weed and vermin exterminator, but the chemical factories will probably utilize the bulk. As for those explosives which contain ammonium nitrate, it is possible that they may be used as fertilizers for the soil. The dynamite, of course, will come in for quarry work.

HE BELIEVED IN FOLLOWING ORDERS.

He was a new but conscientious soldier on duty as sentry, one evening, at one of the national camps. As an officer appeared the "rookie" called "halt!" The officer obeyed, but the sentry called again: "Halt!"

"See here," said the officer, "I halted the first time!"

"Yes; but the sergeant told us to say 'Halt!' three times and then fire."

Needless to say, the officer did not linger.

CHANGED IN TRANSIT.

One of the methods of communicating from one officer to another in the trenches is to give the message to one of the privates and tell him to "pass the word along" the line until it reaches its destination, viz., the officer at the other end. The following story will show how a serious message can be distorted on its journey from mouth to mouth:

Lieutenant A., in charge of one end of the British line, told a private in front to "pass the word along" to Lieutenant B.: "We are going to advance. Can you send us reinforcements?"

When Lieutenant B. received the message it was like this: "We are going to a dance. Can you send us three and four-pence?"

DIFFERENT.

A colored conscript on his way to the train with a number of other prospective soldiers was greeted by a friend.

"Hello, Mose! Where you goin'?" asked the friend.

"Ah, ain't goin' no place. They's takin' me," answered Mose.

THE MIDDLEMAN AGAIN.

A simple minded lumberjack from Minnesota at the front with our troops wrote a letter asking for \$50, and addressed it to "The Good Lord, care of Y. M. C. A., France." His letter was so simple, direct and full of faith that the boys around the Y. M. C. A. camp decided to chip in and send him \$25. He acknowledged the money with a heart full of thanks, but added this postscript:

P. S.—Good Lord: In case you send me any more money don't let it come through the Y. M. C. A., as the last time they held out \$25.00 on me.

TRUTH WILL OUT.

Some time since an Ohio man decided to invite a business acquaintance to dinner, and in consulting his wife about it gave her some of the prospective guest's private history.

From the moment the guest took his place at the table on the appointed evening the eyes of little Johnny never left him.

"Mr. Jones," finally remarked the youngster, "won't you please drink your coffee? I am awfully anxious to see you."

"Why, yes," good-naturedly smiled the guest, "if you wish me to. Why are you so anxious to see me drink it?"

"Because," answered Johnny, to the great embarrassment of his parents, "papa says you drink like a fish."

REVENGE.

"Wot yer goin' to do, Bill, now that the war's over?" "I'm going to live next door to the sergeant-major, and though I ain't got no taste for music I'm bloomin' well goin' to teach myself to play the trombone—one of them big 'uns with a 'andle to it."

THE RIGHT IDEA.

Unfortunately we've mislaid the judge's name, but his court room is in New Bedford, Mass. Before him appeared a defendant who, hoping for leniency, pleaded, "Judge, I'm down and out."

Whereupon said the wise judge: "You're down, but you're not out. Six months."