

## Public Opinion

### THE BITTER CRY OF THE FARMER.

(Chicago Tribune).

The embattled farmers of Dakota who are rallying to the cry of conscript all wealth except agricultural wealth will get very little sympathy from the average American. If there is any class in the world whose lot is prosperous and secure it is the American farmers of the middle west.

### WHAT SOME SOLDIERS ARE ASKING.

(Canadian Churchman).

Why are the men of the rank and file in the trenches at the front paid least and the men in munition factories paid most? Or, put in another, why is it that the farther you go back from the fighting line the greater you find the pay?

Another soldier wants to know why it is that a number of Canadian officers who recently returned from England and who never saw the front had their passages paid, while he and others who had served for months in the trenches had to pay their own way?

So long as conditions like this exist, is it any wonder that soldiers complain? Who wouldn't?

### WHEN FRIGHTFULNESS BEGAN.

(St. Louis Republic).

When Ambassador Cambon left Berlin to return to France at the outbreak of the war he was, according to ex-Ambassador Gerard, bundled off with no ceremony to Denmark and left to get home as best he could. The train which was furnished him was of the ordinary kind, and he was compelled to pay for it in gold.

This speeding the parting guest contrasts strikingly with the circumstances attending the departure of the German ambassador from Paris. He was escorted to a train of great elegance belonging to the French government and taken in comfort across the border, where the Germans confiscated the engine and coaches.

This violation of the rules of courtesy was the prelude to the violation of various other rules, including those of law and humanity.

### HOOT MON!

(Southern Lumberman).

Recent dispatches from London are to the effect that kilts may replace trousers for civilian dress in England as a "result of the government's advice that men should wear material of one hue in order to economize in dyestuffs."

In support of kilts, "a government fashion expert" is alleged to have said that they dispense with the nuisance of pressing, and that the proof of their durability is the fact that Scottish families have passed one kilt down from generation to generation. Another argument advanced in favor of the kilt is the "advice of physicians," who say that the kilt is the ideal dress for boys, because it gives them the greatest warmth around the stomach. The Liverpool Post says: "Certainly something should be done to abolish the hideous cylindrical bags in which we hide our legs to-day. Whoever saw a statue that looked dignified in trousers?" But the real kernel of all this news is in the final paragraph of Associated Press correspondence on the subject:

"The presence of thousands of Scottish troops in all parts of the country has made the kilt popular with many civilians."

So it is not on account of the advice of physicians nor for the sake of economy that civilians look with favor on the kilts, but because of the presence of kilted troops. Age-long yearning of the human heart—to look like a fighter instead of a worker! It is not to be, however. Trousers are here to stay because democracy is here. Democracy and industry go along together. Democracy is founded on an industrial instead of a militaristic or predatory "culture." And even as the knight in shining armor has passed away, so the Highlander in his kilt must go, too. For one thing, there are coming to be a great many wire fences in Scotland! The clans no longer roam free and wild o'er hill and dale. In time of peace, the Highlander must hie to the fields or to the factory or shop, and eventually the kilt will be laid away—superseded by the "cylindrical bags," which, though "hideous," yet serve to cover a multitude of faults in the way of knock-knees and bowlegs, the accompaniments of industrial and commercial endeavor.

### ON THE BRITISH FRONT.

(Writer in New York Sun).

In the British army, the engineer regiments are not limited to sappers' work. For instance, the Royal Engineers' Signal Service has charge of the telephone-lines that cover northern France. Here is an incident illustrating the wonderful completeness of the system:

A company commander was lying out in No Man's Land on a scouting expedition. He had his field-telephone with him, and when he picked it up to talk to his headquarters something went wrong, so that his line was connected with the chief central's office. Immediately he heard a voice say, "What number were you calling?"

He was so startled that he gave his own telephone number in London. Two minutes later he heard his wife's voice amid the roar of the German guns.

### ANOTHER WAR COINCIDENCE.

(London Daily Chronicle).

Sir Arthur Yapp, of the Y. M. C. A., has been one of the valuable discoveries of the war. He had been the secretary of the Manchester Y. M. C. A. housed in a splendid building, until shortly before the war, when he was appointed to his London post. The instant war broke out Mr. Yapp summoned all the leaders of the Y. M. C. A. and outlined a great scheme of huts. Some folks thought the money would not be forthcoming, but his faith in the British public has proved well founded, and long ago the first million pounds was passed. Sir Arthur had a curious experience the other day. He chanced to ask a soldier where he came from, and he named his own birthplace. "What is your name?" he next asked. "Yapp," was the answer. Yet Yapp is uncommon.

### SOLDIER-PRIESTS.

(The Literary Digest).

In France more than 25,000 priests and Church students are fighting in the trenches, when they are not ministering to their dying companions-in-arms. They are serving as common soldiers with knapsack and rifle, and their presence heartens the poilus when they go over the top.

"They are not chaplains," says Sterling Heilig, in the New Orleans Times-Picayune. "They are simple soldiers by universal military-service law, without choice, in the name of equality. They look like soldiers, they are soldiers, but—a form crawls among the wounded on the battlefield at dusk and murmurs: 'I am a priest. Receive absolution. Be at peace.'"

The writer believes that much of the heroic courage that has been displayed by the French soldier may be traced to the fact that fighting side by side with them are these men of the Church.

### WORKING OF THE NEW FRANCHISE LAW.

(Calgary, Albertan).

It is true that the Ruthenian soldier in the Canadian army, or any other soldier born in an enemy country and fighting for Canada will continue to have the vote. In that one respect the franchise act is better than the advance notices of it. It is true, also, that the wife, mother and sister of such Ruthenian has the vote.

But notice the injustice of it, the outrageous unfairness of it.

The mother of the Ruthenian soldier in the Canadian army is given the vote. The father of the same soldier has the vote taken from him.

The sisters of this Ruthenian soldier are given the ballot. The brothers of the same Ruthenian soldier, who voted in previous elections, are now disfranchised.

The daughters of the Ruthenian soldier, if old enough to vote, will be able to cast their ballots. The sons of the Ruthenian soldier, who if old enough previously had the vote, will be disfranchised in this election.

This band of female relatives of the Ruthenian soldier, who probably spent much of their spare time urging him not to enlist, will be able to vote, but many women in this province, who have been spending most of their time since the outbreak of war in doing their part in carrying on the struggle will be unable to vote.

### PIGS IN CLOVER.

(Ottawa Citizen).

Seems about time for that once popular pastime, Pigs in Clover, to be revived.

### CORRECT PRONUNCIATION.

(Southern Lumberman).

Paris newspapers are enlightening their subscribers on the subject of American names. The "Figaro" says that Pershing is pronounced "Peurchigne." As for Wilson, every Frenchman knows it is pronounced "Veelsong."

### SHORTEN 'EM.

(Hamilton Spectator).

A single match is a small thing; but collectively, a large amount of wood is wasted annually by unburnt ends. In this age of economy—preached but not practised—why not shorten 'em.

### FOR THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

(Vancouver World).

To restore the wounded soldier to normal health and the exercise of functions which he may have temporarily lost is an essential work. It is, furthermore, part of the duty cast upon our people in caring for the men who have suffered from enemy shell-fire or bullets at the front.

### A FRENCH PATRIOT.

(London Referee).

Georges Carpentier, heavyweight boxing champion of Europe, and now a military aviator in the French army, states in an interview:

"When I received from America the offer of \$25,000 for a ten-round no-decision bout, there was nothing for me to do except to keep on fighting Germans. This sum was attractive to me, especially since it offered the opportunity to begin a fortune to replace the one war had taken from me. When the war broke out I had all my money invested in the coal mines of my home town, Lens, and by the time the Germans are driven out they will undoubtedly have mined or destroyed all the coal left."

### UNCLE SAM'S LITTLE PURCHASE.

(World Outlook).

There are really over fifty islands in the Virgin Island group, although only three of them are large enough to show on an ordinary map. Since Columbus ran into them in 1493 they have been successively under the rule of Spain, Great Britain, France, Holland, Denmark, and now the United States.

Uncle Sam paid twenty-five million dollars for these new members of his family. This is about \$295 an acre. Alaska cost him only two cents an acre, but he wanted these islands more. The strategic value of the harbor of St. Thomas has been recognized ever since the days of the Spanish buccaneers.

### A NATIONAL MATRIMONIAL AGENCY.

(Victoria Colonist).

A proposal for a National Matrimonial Agency has been advanced in England. It has further been suggested that Australia's example should be followed and marriage by proxy permitted. The question has arisen because of the wastage of life among the male population and the consequent growing preponderance of females in the country. It is claimed that the whole question of marriage, national and international, has taken on fresh aspects since August, 1914. This is true from the standpoint that population is strength, but the idea of a National Matrimonial Agency, or agency of that character, sanctioned by a Government to assist matrimony, will give a sad blow to romance, and may provide endless work for the divorce courts.

### THE WILL-TO-SLAVERY.

(New York Post).

No peace can be lasting which is reached by free peoples on one side and autocrats, contemptuous of faith and of right, on the other. There is no sure sign that the people of Germany realize this. And until they realize it, the war must go on, and must double its force and its intensity. With every moment of continued submissiveness on the part of the German masses this need for their terrible lesson in liberty becomes more apparent. We are fighting not only the efficient legions of Hindenburg, but the obstinate will-to-slavery of the German people. If that can be broken only by the completest victory of allied nations, we must fight on, at whatever sacrifice, at whatever appalling cost, until we get that victory.