

## Public Opinion

### BIRD LIFE IN CANADA. (Woodstock Sentinel Review.)

All insect-eating birds play an important part in the economy of nature and render an immense service to the food producer. They should receive every encouragement and protection possible. And, of course, they have other claims on man's attention, not the least of which is that they add to the joy of life.

### MELTING UP DOLLARS. (Washington Star.)

There will be a \$350,000,000 fire in Washington in a few days. The President has signed the bill authorizing the treasury department to melt and sell that number of silver dollars as bullion. The demand for silver bullion is due to the war in Europe, where there is an unprecedented demand for small silver coins. The value of the silver is about \$1 an ounce and has been so fixed by law.

### "SOLDIERS TO SOLDIERS." (Kingston Standard.)

Four British and three American war correspondents have been honored by being given the Cross of the Legion of Honor by the French Government. The honor is well deserved. But the point is that General Antoine in bestowing the decorations, said that they were "from soldiers to soldiers." That is true. He also spoke of the invaluable work of the British and American press. It has been of inestimable value, and the members of it appreciate the fact that the French Government has acknowledged it in this way.

### THE SCARLET RIDERS. (Regina Post.)

Within a short time the R. N. W. M. P. draft will be proceeding overseas. The regiment has been recruited to more than full strength, and nothing now remains to be done by the headquarters of the force in connection with having the draft in readiness to take its place with the Canadian cavalry in France. The date of their departure rests with the military authorities in the East. The draft is ready to leave at any time. Officered by their own inspectors and with many of their former officers accompanying them in the non-commissioned ranks, the Scarlet Riders are as fine a body of men as ever left any part of the Empire.

### STREET CAR COURTESY. (Minneapolis Journal.)

No finer staging for the virtue of courtesy can be found than the inside of an American street car, including the rear vestibule, and no better opportunity for its daily practice was ever offered. Here one may make two recitations daily in the theory and practice of good manners, and work out his lessons satisfactorily by the laboratory process. The population of a street car being cosmopolitan, one has great variety in his laboratory material. He can shed his courtesy on the just and on the unjust, on the dull and the appreciative, on the courteous and the discourteous.

Courtesy is its own reward. It may be temporarily inconvenient to give up one's seat, but the habitually courteous person has the easy road through life. The path of the discourteous bristles with thorns.

### THE CHAIN LETTER NUISANCE. (New York Sun.)

It would be an excellent thing if all the chain letter appeals in circulation were discontinued and this method of gathering money were abandoned for all time. It is open to the gravest abuses, as has been frequently demonstrated by the thieves who have adopted it to swindle charitable folks. It imposes an unnecessary burden of labor on the recipients of the letters, and the total cost, in stationery, time, energy, postage, of carrying it on is very heavy. Moreover, it is extremely irritating to its victims, who usually know little about the causes they are asked to help, but who hesitate to say "No" for fear they may injure some worthy and deserving enterprise. It would be a proper exercise of authority for the Government, through the Executive Department, or if necessary through the Congress to bar all such appeals from the mails. Good causes get their support in other ways, and the imposters would be cut off from a source of easy graft.

### LOVE TO BE CONTRARY. (Toronto Globe.)

Mrs. Henry Watterson in his Louisville newspaper suggests that the British Parliament might have got better results by decreeing it to be unlawful for Irishmen to enlist.

### AN HONOR LEFT. (Vancouver Province.)

The inventive genius who, after this war is over, is able to conceive of any untried system of taxation or novel method of extracting currency from the public will be entitled to honorary life membership in the exclusive order of the Golden Fleece.

### VALUE OF CHEESE. (London Daily Express.)

Cheese is the only real substitute for meat. Bread and cheese is, indeed, a most perfect diet. Men have habitually done many hours' hard manual work with bread and cheese as their chief food. Margarine is a fairly satisfactory alternative for butter. There is no substitute for cheese.

### "BUYING UP THE PRESS." (Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.)

There were many people who said during the Federal election last December that the press of Canada had been bought by means of Government advertising in such campaigns as the Victory Loan issue. The published figures revealing the actual cost of floating the Victory Loan show that out of total expenditures amounting to \$5,000,000, only \$207,000 went to all the newspapers and journals in Canada for advertising, while \$750,000 went as commission to brokers, \$1,140,000 to canvassers, and \$984,395 to bankers.

### MAKE SURE OF VEGETABLE SUPPLY. (Windsor Record.)

A great majority of Canadians have not realized yet how important it is to grow all the vegetables we can for use next winter, when food conditions will be more acute than ever, whether the war is over or not. Each family should try to become self-sustaining—that is, grow enough potatoes and other vegetables to run through from November to May or June. The world is approaching a very serious food crisis. The British belief is that the side that can hold out the longer on food supply will win the war.

### THE CAMPAIGN IN THE HOME. (The Wall Street Journal.)

"We must stop eating candy, and buying new clothes. We must save every cent we can for Uncle Sam, till this awful war is over."

This wasn't a thrift stamp campaign speech at all. It was what greeted the ears of a prominent Wall Street broker on reaching home a few days ago. The speaker was his daughter, age three—her audience, two rigidly attentive dolls, propped up on the floor of the nursery.

The broker says that with such a patriotic daughter, there is nothing for him to do but to keep in line.

### ORDER OF MERIT FOR FARMERS. (The Oregonian, Portland, Ore.)

There is something in the suggestion that a badge be designed as a mark of distinction in the field of agriculture. We already have our Liberty bond buttons, and our decorations for bravery in the field, and the Congressional medal for military service of an especially high order. The farmer at the same time is engaged in a work as necessary as that of anyone in the winning of the war. France showed its appreciation some years ago of the importance of the better class of agriculture by creating a new order of knighthood known as the "Ordre de Merite Agricole." Its purpose was to stimulate especial efforts to excel in their calling. Why not a decoration for the producer of 30 bushels of wheat, or 200 bushels of potatoes, or six tons of timothy hay to the acre? Why not, indeed? The Agricultural Order of Merit ought to be founded at once. There is nothing destructive of democracy about it. Witness the example of France.

### THE BIGGEST I. O. U. (Philadelphia Telegraph.)

The brief tale of the biggest I. O. U. in history. At the outset of the war Germany had 71 cents in gold for every dollar of paper money. To-day she has only 18 cents in gold for every dollar of paper money.

What one might call financing a war with the printing press.

### "IN MAH ADVISORY CAPACITY." (Providence Journal.)

There is an application to some thousands of war enthusiasts in the story of a colored man who "got religion." He had a reputation for laziness that had given him the championship of the community, but upon his conversion he proclaimed loudly that he was ready to devote his whole efforts to helping on the good cause. He made his first public prayer, concluding in this fashion: "Use me, Lord, use me—in mah advisory capacity!"

### A SCIENTIFIC WAR. (Popular Science Monthly.)

This is the most scientific war ever fought. There is less dependence on man-power and more on machinery than at any time in the history of the world. We pin our faith to high explosives, poison gases, tear shells, gas masks, liquid fire, etc., all of which are applied chemistry, and to machine guns, heavy artillery, automobiles, submarines, airplanes and so forth, which are very much refined mechanics. The greatest minds in the scientific and mechanical world have pooled their brains and obtained wonderful results.

### BACK TO CANALS. (New York Tribune.)

In taking over the New York state barge canal system and making provision for barges for its early operation Mr. McAdoo testifies to the value of inland waterways as a supplement to the overtaxed railroad system of the country. Europe has long recognized this value and utilized it to the full. New York state alone of all those which once found canals useful has reconstructed and improved them to maintain their functions. Now the wisdom of this policy is manifest.

### THE WISDOM OF PROHIBITION. (New York Sun.)

Prohibition laws are not sumptuary laws. They are laws in defense of the public health, public order and public morals. They are a legitimate exercise of the police powers of the State. They impose limitations upon the acts of certain individuals, not because of the effect of those acts on those persons but because of the consequences of their acts to others and to the community as a whole. The prohibition of the providing of alcoholic liquors is justified by the conviction that the general welfare is endangered through its continuance.

### USES OF SAWDUST. (London Daily Chronicle.)

Sawdust, which most of us regard as waste, has many uses besides the manufacture of paper, for which a century-old invention is to be applied. Oxalic acid is made from it; it is used for packing as well as smoking fish. Carbonized, it makes a better filter than ordinary charcoal. Boxwood sawdust is used for cleaning jewellery, and rosewood sawdust is compressed into artificial ebony. Furriers use it for dressing skins, while even small fragments of some woods, such as pencil cedar, are made to yield perfumes. A peculiarity of sawdust is that it sinks in water, although the wood from which it is cut floats.

### GOOD WORK. (Argonaut.)

Gipsy Smith, the evangelist, has gone through four big gas attacks; he has seen three years' service in Y. M. C. A. work at the front, and the King of England has decorated him for the work he has done in keeping up the spirits of the men. He is in America for a short time, making a tour of army camps to talk on things just behind the firing-line in France. He puts the basis of the American alliance in no unmeasured terms: "America and Britain are so closely allied in blood, breeding, faith, and religion that they must stand together to the end for the freedom of the world." What he is doing now is to him "the biggest piece of work" he has ever undertaken.