

Public Opinion

A PRE-REQUISITE.

(Indianapolis News.)

And the world will not be made safe for democracy until the ocean has been made safe for hospital ships.

ACCORDING TO GERMAN FAITH.

(Kansas City Times.)

When the Kaiser speaks of "my faithful allies," he means Austria, which he is holding by the hair; Bulgaria, which he is sitting on, and Turkey, which has just made a break for the window.

MUCH ADD.

(Calgary Albertan, Unionist.)

The Albertan cannot quite appreciate the wonderful progress in the constitutional freedom which merely permits a Canadian premier to talk to a British premier without the services of an interpreter.

FAILED IN PRACTICE.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

General Bernhardt, whose spouting made at one time such a hit in Germany, has had a chance to put into practice some of his military theories, but as his happens to be the corps that is being driven back by the British around Merville, it wouldn't appear that his policies were a success.

FAVORED IRELAND.

(New York World.)

Ireland has the same rights and privileges in the British Empire as Scotland and Wales, except for local self-government, even more than the great dominions of Canada and Australia. It has a larger representation in Parliament than its population warrants. It enjoys every guarantee of conscience, press and speech which the British constitution affords. In the matter of land tenures its people are favored by the laws to be found in no other country. Rebellion and other crimes participated in by a few violent men have been sternly punished, but Ireland is not a Belgium or a Serbia, devastated and enslaved by a power setting itself above treaties and laws, and every sensible person knows it.

WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS?

(Buffalo Express.)

Both Irish factions have now sent special appeals to the United States for sympathy. Both claim to have been our best friends in 1776. We can't make distinctions between them on the issue of 1776. Both northern and southern Irishmen were our friends then, as were also the Liberals of England—the most valuable and influential friends we had in the world in those days, not even excepting France.

But the question of the hour is: Who is on our side now? We are fighting an issue of the twentieth century, not of the eighteenth. Those who wish our friendship and support must give friendship and support in return. They cannot do it by raising rebellion against an allied government or by pleading petty local excuses for refusing to bear their share of the burden of fighting which all the rest of us have had to assume.

INSECT POWDER.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

In our grandfathers' day the so-called Persian insect powder (commonly sold nowadays under the name of "pyrethrum") cost \$16 a pound. Pretty dear for a bug-killer.

The stuff was a mystery. Beyond the fact that it was of a vegetable nature, nobody knew what it was.

As a matter of fact, it came from Transcaucasia, where its production was a very important industry. For centuries it had been widely used in Asiatic countries, and the source of the material was a secret carefully kept.

Eventually the secret was revealed by an Armenian merchant, who, travelling through Transcaucasia, discovered that the insect powder was simply the ground-up flower-heads of a plant nearly related to our own field daisy.

Later on, attempts were made to introduce the plant into the United States, but the seeds refused to sprout. This (as finally ascertained) was due to the circumstance that the persons from whom they were bought had baked them.

At the present time we grow all our own insect powder in California.

A HAM SANDWICH.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The Germans are retreating towards Ham, where we hope Foch will sandwich them, with the aid of a little mustard gas.

LOTS OF CHOICE.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

It is reported that the Kaiser is seeking a substitute for the German national anthem. Why worry? He will soon be given his choice of the "Marseillaise," "God Save the King" or "The Star-Spangled Banner."

THE AMERICAN AIRPLANE SITUATION.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

The new Curtiss-Kirkham motor, which carries an airplane at the rate of 162 miles an hour, is said to supersede anything at present on the western front. Out trouble appears to be that we have been waiting for extraordinary developments in airplane production rather than accepting existing standards and getting the planes to France.

CANADA'S MOVE.

(Brantford Expositor.)

After four years of war, a parliamentary committee has at last recommended that all enemy aliens in England of 18 years of age be interned. What a patient, tolerant people! However, better late than never. And now Canada should fall in line. The lesson of the Llandovery Castle suggests summary action.

GENEROUS TREATMENT.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

The lesson of Abraham Lincoln throws a light along the pathway of Woodrow Wilson. It pleads for generous treatment of Woodrow Wilson. We need not defy him. But we must trust him. He is not only our leader, but the world's leader. Lloyd George was right enough. The issue lies between Hindenburg and Wilson. If Wilson does not beat Hindenburg good-bye to civilization.

U. S. PACKERS' COMBINE.

(Grain Growers' Guide.)

One more great stroke of governmental action against the plundering of the many by a powerfully organized, greedy few is added to the record by the action of the Federal Trade Commission of the United States, which, after searching investigation, has recommended to President Wilson government acquisition and control of all the principal stockyards, cold storage plants and warehouses, refrigerator cars and cattle cars in the United States. This the commission recommends in order to destroy a monopoly which it declares Swift and Co., Armour and Co., Morris and Co., Wilson and Co., Inc., and the Cudahy Packing Co., exercise, not only over the meat supply of the country, but over other necessary food supplies.

A PRUSSIAN PRESCRIPTION.

(Toronto Globe.)

There is a characteristically Prussian touch in the statement of the new German Foreign Secretary, Admiral von Hintze, to the Press: "The entire truth at certain times does not serve, but harms, the public interest."

This is a made-in-Germany maxim which has been consistently applied. Tell the people the whole truth when a Lusitania is sunk, when a hospital is bombed, when hundreds of women and children are drowned in the deep or slaughtered from above. These are victories which buoy up the spirit of the masses. But lie to them when the submarine campaign has definitely failed, when over a million American soldiers have landed on the shores of France, when the food difficulties of the Allies have been solved, when the drive upon which the German High Command had staked everything on the Western front has been turned into a rout. The Germans have been spoon-fed so long on Potsdam pabulum that a change of diet might have startling results. The unadulterated truth would be good for them in the end, though it would be a bitter dose, but the consequences might not be good for the Potsdam gang.

Bye-and-bye the German people will have to take their medicine. Then they may demand a change of doctors. If not, the Allies will prescribe for them at the Peace Conference.

FACING THE MUSIC.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Sooner or later some incorrigible punster will point out that Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky are now facing the muzik in Russia.

CITY LIFE.

(London Daily News.)

They took the countryman to the Strand. "Where on earth do you get food enough to feed all these people?" said he. So they took him to the markets. "Where on earth do you find people to eat all this stuff?" said the countryman.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

(Labor World, Montreal.)

Several countries, namely, Belgium, Finland, Switzerland and Japan, have adopted the proportional system of representation. It will certainly be established in France in the near future. It is recognized as being the most equitable, the most democratic electoral system that exists.

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS."

(Saskatoon Phenix.)

Mr. Adam Bull, age 87 years, of Scarborough, near Toronto, relates that in the old days of St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, there was quite a debate one summer as to the advisability of buying with church funds a barrel of beer for members to drink between services. We begin to understand what the expression "Those were good old days" really means.

AVENUES OF HONOR.

(Springfield Union.)

The city of Cleveland has adopted a novel plan for honoring its soldier dead. For each Cleveland soldier that loses his life in this war a Victory oak will be planted along one of the boulevards, and each of the oaks will be named for a soldier. This will constitute a beautiful and enduring memorial, with a practical as well as a sentimental value. Other cities may find it desirable to follow Cleveland's example.

THE RETURNED SOLDIER.

(Toronto Star.)

No man who is really a returned soldier from the front needs to be in want. There may be too much red tape sometimes and things may go wrong, but even so, the man who limps home from the war need but get in touch with the organizations that exist and he will be put in the way of having his needs looked into. The best friends of the soldiers are those who have set themselves the task of seeing that the veterans of this war shall not have to go from door to door in quest of a living.

THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS.

(Argonaut.)

The recognition of the Czecho-Slovaks as constituting another Allied army not only brings a new belligerent formerly upon the scene, but it furnishes a fresh reminder of how little we know of the more obscure nationalities of Europe. These Czecho-Slovaks were prisoners of war taken by the Russians from the Austrian army, into which they had been reluctantly forced. Their sympathies were against Austria, and they willingly became captives at the first opportunity. They were liberated, or they seized their liberty, when Russia collapsed, and they then proceeded to make their way through Russia and across Siberia in the hope of joining the Allied armies in France. This project was opposed by the Bolsheviks, and the Czecho-Slovaks then started to fight their way through the country to Vladivostok and they have been fighting ever since. Indeed they have been fighting so successfully that they seem to have changed their original intention to reach the Pacific for the more immediate and more useful task of thrashing the Bolsheviks, and it may be said that they have done this with a large measure of success. They are said to have armed themselves from the Russian military stores that they easily seized, and at the moment they are in practical possession of long stretches of the Siberian railroad and of various important Siberian cities. By all means they ought to be helped, not only by the formal recognition of the Allied Governments, but in more substantial ways. When the story of the war comes to be written it will contain nothing more heroic than the adventures of this little band of warriors desperately battling their way through Serbia, not that they might reach a place of safety for themselves, but that they might throw themselves into the furor on the western front.