

## Public Opinion

### WORLD DEMOCRACY.

(Ottawa Citizen).

The cost is tremendous. Already seven million lives have paid the price or contributed to it. The world will emerge poorer in men, in wealth, in all that has made it great, materially, in the past. But mankind will have been freed, just as truly as the American negroes were freed by Lincoln's proclamation. Old forms will have passed away forever, the pride of caste will no longer dominate the rights of labor or detract from the honor of honest toil. Everywhere men will realize that the world will no longer tolerate injustice, nationally or internationally. When the war comes to an end the world will sit down to a new deal. And this time the people, not the kings or rulers, will be the players.

### PATENT MEDICINE BOOZE.

(New York Post).

War has been declared against whisky to the end, beer and wine have been made to tremble for their existence, but no one has threatened even mildly the bitters, tonics, remedies, cordials, compounds, and elixirs which contain large percentages of alcohol. This fact recently drew some caustic remarks from Representative Meeker of Missouri.

He read into the Congressional Record a list of 746 patent medicines containing alcohol; very few, indeed, less than 10 per cent, more than half 20, and four actually over 90. As he said, the spread of prohibition is favorable to their sale, although doubtless the larger portion of their consumption is by people who believe in their medicinal value.

A few have national reputations, but the great majority are manufactured and sold locally. To exempt alcohol used medicinally from the operation of a general prohibition law without giving a clear definition of what constitutes a medicine would be almost farcical.

The pure food law made it much more difficult for obviously fraudulent compounds to prey upon the ignorance and desperation of poor and ailing people; but it made clearer than ever their appeal to the tippler. Doubtless the day of reckoning for these nostrums approaches, but it comes slowly.

### THE HIGHLANDERS ABROAD.

(Philadelphia Ledger).

"Pibroch of Doniul Dhu,  
Pibroch of Doniul,  
Wake thy wild voice anew,  
Summon Clan-Doniul!"

Up Broadway they marched, the Canadian Highlanders who had come to New York to help on the British recruiting there, and all along the crowded sidewalks there were cheers and cheers. Of all the thrilling episodes of the war, none was more thrilling than this. There is something in the pipes to stir the most sluggish heart. Under that inspiration men went gladly to death for Bonnie Prince Charlie. They are going to death now for a greater cause. The kilties sweep down on the Germans as they once swept down on the Sassenach. "The ladies from hell," the enemy in the trenches call them. The laddies from Canada in their kilts, their plaids, their brooches, their sporrans, their bonnets, rouse fighting blood in all who see them. Two hundred of them came to New York, and who can say how many recruits will follow in their train? They are asking for men to enlist under the British colors, but may there not be hitherto reluctant patriots who because of them will enlist under the American colors as well? No man of Scottish birth or ancestry, at least, could be deaf to such an appeal.

From the lone shieling on the misty island  
Mountains divide them, and a world of seas;  
But still their hearts are true, their hearts are High-  
land,  
And they in dreams behold the Hebrides"

Let the pibroch sound all over the land if that will help. Bring the Highlanders to Philadelphia. Chestnut street will respond to the call as enthusiastically as Broadway. Nothing is more needed just now than a revival of the fighting spirit. An abstraction is not inspiring. War may be a science, but the scientific spirit does not win battles. We need the tumult and the shouting, too. The Campbells and all the rest of the clans are coming. On to Berlin!

### TO PROMOTE ECONOMY.

(Winnipeg Tribune).

A pastor wrote to his local paper the other day making a very excellent economy suggestion. "I think," he declared, "the best way to educate the people along lines of economy is to get them into the ministry. Since September of last year I have received \$318.28 in cash or less than one dollar per day." It would be a good way to educate the public in economy.

### SOLDIERS' AND WORKERS' SERVICE.

(London Mail).

I do not know what Sir Douglas Haig is paid, but I am certain that he is not paid anything like the money that many manufacturers and contractors are making annually out of the war. There is no question at all of anybody in the army profiting by the war. If the General Staff were a lot of company directors for whom our soldiers were called upon to make profits by killing Germans, there would be plenty of discontent in the trenches. The difference between workers at home and the soldiers in the trenches is that the former know they are working for the private profit of someone; the latter know they are not.

### CONVENTION IDEA.

(London Advertiser).

There is one thing to recommend the convention idea; it puts the responsibility fairly and squarely on Ireland and the Irish. Hitherto the world at large has been apt to ask: Why does not England (or Britain) settle the Irish question? It has been settled so far as Britain is concerned for a considerable time, but part of Ireland has refused to accept the settlement, with the result that the problem is still unsolved. In reality, it is no longer Britain's place to seek the solution, but Ireland's. The convention may emphasize this fact abroad and lead to better understanding of England's attitude.

### THE ONLY TAXED-INDUSTRY.

(Forest Free Press).

Farming is like any other business; when it pays it will make progress, and when it is carried on at a loss it will decline. That farming does not pay explains the whole cause of the deplorable condition of farming in Ontario to-day. The main reason why farming is unprofitable is because it is the only industry in the country that is taxed under our fiscal system. All other industries are enabled to add their taxes to the selling price of their products.

The old saying, "The farmer feedeth all," was never more an actual experience than it is to-day, but until our fiscal system is completely revised, and the feeding process made profitable, all appeals for "more production" will be worse than useless. Taxation on food production is Canada's greatest political crime. When will the government, or the opposition, awake to this fact? The trouble is that both parties are controlled by the bounty-fed autocracy of combines.

### A CONFUSION OF TONGUES.

(Southern Lumberman).

In Austria-Hungary there are 10,000,000 people who speak the Magyar language; then there are 20,000,000 Slavs with their language and dialects, and several million people who speak the "Romance" languages or languages derived from Roman (Latin) sources.

This multiplicity of tongues constitutes a weakness in a nation just as it formed the defect in the tower-of-Babel plan. As long as a group of people, within the empire, clings to its separate speech, it will be an element of separateness, and the nation will lack solidarity. The Bohemians in Austria are conscious of their entity because of their clinging to their own speech. They have resisted efforts to "Germanize" them, and they are not entirely reconciled to the rule of the dual empire.

This language issue makes Austria-Hungary a shaky nation. In fact there are those who believe that it is the shakiest nation in Europe, because of this: Where many races mingle, the dominating language is what settles the ultimate status of most of the people. And nobody can tell what is to be the dominating language so long as many groups of inhabitants insist upon speaking their own separate language.

### UNITED STATES SHIPS BLOCKADED.

(Chicago Tribune).

With great economy the Kaiser has added our total merchant tonnage normally engaged in trans-atlantic trade to the roster of ships sunk. He has not had to use a torpedo nor risk a submarine. He has used our own weapons, words. If the blockade is not wholly successful with regard to the British Isles, it is with regard to the United States.

We are like the indignant citizen who told the police that they couldn't put him in jail—but there he was in jail.

### THE ENGLAND OF TO-DAY.

(Washington Post).

The England of to-day is not the England which, under a German King and a weak Ministry, blundered into the fatal error of attempting to tyrannize over the American colonies. England now exhibits the same spirit as that which sustained Washington and Lafayette. It is battling heroically for human rights. In spite of mistakes and difficulties in the administration of its immense Empire, Great Britain stands for the essentials of self-government, home rule and individual liberty. Its subjects are free men, wherever they stand upon the earth. No war-lord mortgages their lives from the cradle to the grave, or drives them like cattle in the prosecution of monstrous criminal ambitions. The British people are their own war-lords. Their Empire, great as it is in extent, is greater because of the spirit of liberty that guides and defends it.

### ROADS AND SCHOOLS.

(Saturday Evening Post).

Every sort of town in the United States gets its due share of the total increase in population, and a little more. Population of incorporated places of less than 2,500 inhabitants increased over a million and three-quarters in the last census period, and nearly three and a half millions since 1890. At that date they had 7½ per cent of the total population, and in 1910 nearly 9 per cent. So with the towns from 2,500 up to 50,000, while bigger cities ran way ahead of the general rate of growth. But farm population declined from 56 4-10 per cent of total population in 1890 to 44 8-10 in 1910.

There are no glittering business opportunities in small country towns, but there are many social opportunities. It is easy for people to get together in all weathers. The public schools are much better than those in that large part of the strictly rural region where the barbarous one room ungraded institution prevails. So people are willing to live in small country towns.

The farm problem is in no inconsiderable part a matter of good roads and good country schools. Good country schools are nearly impossible without good roads, for a really good country school is a consolidated one, drawing children from an extensive district and giving them transportation from home to school and back.

A farm on a poor road is a prison for women and children part of every year. Nobody likes a prison.

### FORCING PRODUCTION.

(Ottawa Citizen).

A man in Kansas city has discovered a way to raise forty-two bushels of potatoes on a plot of ground only eight feet square. He had been watching the potato pile in the cellar bin, which every spring sent out its shoots through every possible crack and crevice. Sometimes these sprouts would crawl out along the floor a distance of seven feet in order to reach the light. From this beginning he conceived the idea of building a potato pen, which was nothing more than a huge potato hill out in the back yard. The potato pen, the sides of which are built after the fashion of a rail fence, formed an enclosure of 8 to 8 feet in size. Within this enclosure he planted potatoes, first putting down a 6-inch layer of soil and dressing, and spacing the potato seeds six inches from the side and a foot apart in chequer board lines across the layer. He covered the potatoes with one or two inches of dressing, and sprinkled it well with water. Then he laid six inches more of soil, marked off as before—planted, covered with dressing, and sprinkled. He repeated this operation till he had built layers of potatoes eight feet high. The sides were well braced with deal boards spaced three inches apart. The potato pen became a mound of green, potato vines growing from the top and sides (the nearest way to the light) and in three months he took from the pen forty-two bushels of potatoes—enough and to spare for the family all winter.