

Public Opinion

THERE'S A REASON.

(New York Morning Telegraph).

The Kaiser told Ambassador Gerard that he would remember the United States after the close of the war, and there is every reason to believe he will keep his word.

BRIGANDS AND PIRATES.

(Louisville Courier-Journal).

Difference between a man's vocation and his vacation is that the former is of fifty weeks' duration every year, profitable and peaceful, while the latter is two weeks of tribute-giving to mountain brigands or seaside pirates.

THE KAISER'S ALLY.

(The Wall Street Journal).

Herr Wilhelm Rudolf von Hurst, who is soon to be by his Kaiser with the Hohenzollern order of the Tin Buzzard, decorated, a place in the front trenches for strategic reasons, declined has.

REVEALING THE LOCATION.

(Life).

Early in the war J. B. adopted a French soldier and furnishes him with a monthly allowance of tobacco. Incidentally, he is also lubricating his rusty French by carrying on a correspondence with his "filleul de guerre," who writes him from the trenches, "somewhere in France."

In a recent letter, the soldier informed his American benefactor that "hier j'ai tue deux Boches. Ils sont alles a l'enfer." (Yesterday I killed two Boches. They went straight to hell.) The censor wrote between the lines, "Il est defendu de dire ou est l'ennemi." (It is forbidden to tell where the enemy is!).

ENGLISH, SCOTCH AND IRISH FIGHTERS.

(Wall Street Journal).

An American recently returned from service at the front with Canadian troops tells of the difference in preparations for battle of the English soldier as compared with the Scotch and Irish. When getting ready for attack, the English soldier carefully goes over mechanism of his rifle to see the locks are working properly, the barrel free of mud and so forth.

The Scot and the Irishman pay no attention to mud on lock, stock or barrel, but each very carefully polishes his bayonet on his sleeve. The battle over, the English soldiers may be observed proudly escorting back groups of prisoners, while the Scotch and Irish come back empty handed. Asked about prisoners, they reply: "Prisoners! Never saw any."

A FORWARD LOOK.

(Macon Telegraph).

It takes all
Sorts of folks
To make up the
Justly celebrated
World, including
The philanthropic
Citizen who
Carefully inspects
The blind man's
Stock of pencils
And selects the
One with the
Best rubber before
Dropping a nickel
In his tin cup.

REDUCED LIVING COSTS.

(Boston News Bureau).

In many north of England towns, buying food on co-operative plan has been in existence several years. Extent of co-operation varies from group who buy a cow or sheep to be butchered to co-operative associations which allow customers to participate in profits. Liver Guild of Liverpool has a different method. It has several thousand members who pay nominal sum (about 50 cents) annually, to cover cost of printing and administration expenses. Through salaried secretary, arrangements are made with merchants, steamship companies, railroads, tourist agencies, theatres, doctors, dentists, and others, to allow members discounts varying from 5 per cent to 25 per cent. In this way cost of living is cut at least 10 per cent.

WAITING FOR THE HEN.

(Toronto Globe).

It is the invariable habit of Commissions to open and then adjourn, and it may be that one Commission is busily engaged hunting for eggs to fry with its bacon.

COMPARED TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Christian Science Monitor).

A Canadian correspondent is indignant at the mere suggestion that any person should imagine that there are worse streets anywhere than in Montreal. He wants to know where in Boston any one is going to equal St. Catherine Street, Montreal. St. Catherine Street, he insists, after rain is Venetian in the extent of its water, even if it does not resemble it in any single other thing. Any one who knows St. Catherine Street will admit this without question. But it must be observed that this paper was writing of roadways, and not of practical jokes. If you want to equal St. Catherine Street you must apply to the municipality of Constantinople, where they don't worry about such things at all.

AMMONIA COOLED OFFICES.

(New York Times).

Those who have occasion to make the rounds of Wall Street banks and banking houses found one cool spot. It was the office of a prominent banking firm in William Street. It was the only place in the financial district that was comfortable. The difference in temperature between that office and most other banking quarters suggested the presence of a refrigerator. Inquiry disclosed that the banking firm has an ammonia plant in its basement, which cools its offices. The use of ammonia for cooling purposes recalls the remark of the late Dr. R. Ogden Doremus, professor of chemistry at the College of the City of New York, who advised the installation of such a plant when plans were being drawn for the new Stock Exchange building. He said: "If they can cool dead hogs in Chicago, why not the live bulls and bears on the New York Stock Exchange?" The exchange is cooled by liquid ammonia.

THE LADY BANK CLERK.

(London Daily News).

Has the lady bank clerk come to stay? Opinions in banking circles would seem to be divided upon the point, and "The Banker's Magazine," which during the past 12 months has given in its columns a course of lectures to ladies on elementary banking, contents itself with the present, and points to the golden opportunities women have of obtaining higher positions. Of the success of the experiment there seems to be no doubt. Women who were juniors a year ago are said to be filling posts of responsibility, and (in one case at least) occupying the manager's chair; while lady cashiers are fairly plentiful. The lady bank clerk, however, is apparently not yet sufficiently suspicious of the casual customer, for one reads of "considerable losses not only through errors in cash, which are to a large extent preventable by experience, but also through fraudulent opening of crossings and raising of amounts."

PEANUT GREATNESS.

(Wall Street Journal).

When you want a synonym for mean littleness, don't say "peanuts." That used to be the right word, but not now. It takes an immense amount of grease to keep a big war machine running. Without it a soldier would not even be able to shave, wash himself well, eat a well cooked ration, and then go out and fire a few tons of nitroglycerine. When the Allies realized this, they rushed to the United States for lard, fats, oils and grease. An army of 60,000,000 swine faced the abattoirs and died by hundreds of thousands, but were all too few. Then the annual 5,000,000-ton crop of cottonseed was pressed into service, and gave up rivers of oil, but the cry was for more. The insignificant peanut offered itself with such good results that the call has gone out to raise more of him, and the acreage this year will be increased 61 per cent. When carefully made, the first run is fit for salad oil without refining; then come lower grades for cooking, and the last goes for soap stock and other industrial uses. The residuum goes to the cows, and increases output of butter, although this is not the usual method of making peanut butter

GERMAN ARITHMETIC.

(Life).

- 1 German equals 10 unkultured foreigners.
- 2 soldiers equal 10 civilians.
- 3 officers equal 12 privates.
- 4 treaties equal 8 scraps of paper.
- 5 poisoned wells equal 1 strategic retreat.
- 6 iron crosses equal 1 ruined cathedral.
- 7 zeppelin raids equal 7 demonstrations of frightfulness.
- 8 eggs equal hearty meals (common people).
- 9 eggs equal 1 appetizer (aristocracy).
- 10 deported Belgians equal 10 unmarked graves.
- 11 torpedoed neutrals equal 11 disavowals.
- 12 Gotts equal 1 Kaiser.

THE EDUCATION OF GERMANY.

(New York World).

Every policy of the German government for more than three years has been based upon the belief that might alone could prevail. The atrocities committed in Belgium and France, the wanton destruction of cities, the Lusitania massacre, the air raids on unfortified cities, the murder of non-combatants, the attacks on hospitals and hospital ships, ruthless submarine warfare, the driving of French and Belgian civilians into exile, the conspiracies against the peace and safety of neutrals—every act of the German government has been a deification of the doctrine of might.

It is only because might has failed to prevail that the imperial foreign secretary begins to realize that it was doomed to fail from the start and that right also must be considered in shaping the policies of government.

The education of Germany is a painful and costly process, but now that Junkertum is beginning to learn, there is all the more reason why the instruction should be thorough. When Germany has been compelled by crushing defeat to understand that it is right that makes might and not might that makes right, there will be security in the world for honest people.

FRANCE AND FRENCH-CANADIANS.

(From the Los Angeles Times).

But how came the French-Canadians to be so obviously designated among the slackers? It upsets all our ideas of French gallantry and patriotism. True, many of the French-Canadians are several generations removed from France, but they have kept quite unusually exclusive; have remained a distinct race in the colony. Their language, their customs, their religion, are all French. Does it take the historic soil of France to breed a Frenchman?—the sort of Frenchman to whom La Patrie, his motherland, is the pre-eminent ideal. There is irony in the fact that, while the world is upholding France and the French as the arch-heroes of the war, the French in Canada are the only subjects in the British Empire who claim the right to stand aside.

The United States, which has always held itself aloof from European disputes, has submitted to conscription in the cause of a great principle, largely engendered by France's heroic stand and our old friendship for that country, with next to no opposition.

It will always be one of the ironical incidents of history that conscription was carried in Canada in spite of the French-Canadians, not because of them.

OUT OF HER OWN MOUTH.

(The Annalist).

Germany has a habit of convicting herself out of her own mouth. One explanation which Germans have offered of their dastardly invasion of Belgium, of their bombing of cities, and of their barbarous murders at sea is that Germany had to fight for her place in the sun, that she had to have trade and that the only way to get it was to take up arms against rival nations which were seeking to destroy her. All this in face of the fact that German overseas trade had for years been growing at a marvellous rate with practically all the countries of the world, not excepting the colonies and possessions of Great Britain which German apologists like to represent as having had a death grip on Germany which had to be broken at any cost. Now comes Vice-Chancellor Helfferich before the Main Committee of the Reichstag to inform Germans that had it not been for the outbreak of the war Germany's trade by 1917 (at the rate at which it was increasing) would have reached the level of Great Britain's trade. And Germany went to war to build up her trade! Instead of that she has brought woe to the world and her trade has been reduced to a shadow of its old volume. And who, pray, when this war is over, will help her again to build it up?