

tion which rendered impotent a famous officer might also possess great statesmen of the same generation. Searching inquiry having developed the correctness of this suspicion, to his own mind at any rate, Northcliffe undertook forthwith, not merely to reduce an unwieldy Cabinet to an effective working War Council of five, a comparatively easy achievement, but to put the entire "old gang" out of power. According full credit to Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey for the valuable services which they had rendered, he insisted nevertheless that, like Field Marshal French and Marshal Joffre, they had reached the limit of their accomplishment and, for the saving of the nation, must make way for others, younger in years and unimpaired in spirit. Again he drove home to the minds of the people the need of change and again he prevailed against tremendous odds, cowing all opponents into submission and establishing Lloyd George as Premier, at the head of a compact Council probably unsurpassable in efficiency in England.

Of the innumerable additional achievements of Lord Northcliffe during the war—his Air Defence for

England, Aircraft for France, Organized Recruiting, Compulsory Service, Big Guns, Galvanization of the Admiralty, Central Allied Staff, Succor for Belgium, Huge Funds for the Red Cross, etc., passing mention only need be made. Suffice it to say that, after nine visits to all the fronts, including the Italian and Serbian, days and nights in aeroplanes, motor-cars and trenches, he has little to learn from the areas of hostilities and turns restlessly and eagerly to the activities of the great Republic, which is now pledged to take up and finish the mighty task of making the world definitely and forever safe for democracy. That he finally, though reluctantly, yielded to the urgent insistence of the British War Council that he assume the direction and supervision of the various commissions now engaged in the purchase and shipment of vast quantities of supplies to the Allies is less surprising than at first it seemed, for the simple reason that none can realize more keenly than he that in effective co-ordination of all forces can be found the only sure method of winning the war.

NEWS, VIEWS AND OPINIONS

AT the close of the debate at Ottawa on the Conscription Bill, says the Journal of Commerce, edited by Hon. W. S. Fielding, somebody started the National Anthem. The members, we are told, rose and sang the Anthem. Hon. Frank Oliver, the report states, kept his seat and did not join in the singing.

The singing of the National Anthem, on public occasions on which there is unity among the people, is a proper expression of such unity and of loyalty to our Sovereign. Perhaps, in Canada, there is too much of mere formality in this expression. It is the custom at the close of most public entertainments for the orchestra, if there is one, to play the National Anthem. But how many in the audience pay the respect that is due to the Anthem? How many stand respectfully until the music ceases? Is it not a fact that by the majority of the audience the first bar of the Anthem is taken as a signal to put on their wraps and rush to the door?

People who appreciate the National Anthem, and desire to have it honoured, will probably be inclined on first thought to disapprove of Mr. Oliver's action. But sober second thought should turn the disapproval from Mr. Oliver to those who, thoughtlessly perhaps, started the Anthem on such an occasion. Mr. Oliver's attitude, a report says, "is that he refuses to sing the National Anthem for what he considers to be political purposes." The easiest way on such an occasion is to rise with others and join in the demonstration. It requires courage in a man to keep his seat at such a time, as a protest against the misuse of the National Anthem. Both the flag and the Anthem are dishonoured by such use. The Anthem was designed as an expression by the whole people of their loyalty to the Sovereign. It was never intended to be used to mark the triumph of one party or set of men over another, either in Parliament or in the country.

WHEN we stop in front of a motion picture theatre and read a sign such as "Mary Pickford in Three Reels," we know this does not mean Little Mary has been cut to pieces, but that it was necessary to utilize three thousand feet of film to produce the picture. So writes R. W. Baremore, in the Popular Science Monthly. He says, "As a general rule motion pictures are made in thousand-foot lengths. The regulation camera and projection machine hold this length of film. What are known as 'features' are produced in multiple reels. The film is one and three-eighths inches in width and is made in two-hundred-foot lengths, the full reel or one thousand feet being secured by cementing five of these lengths together. Sixteen pictures are made on each foot of film.

The developing and fixing are generally done in two-hundred-foot lengths. It is difficult to handle any greater length. Large drums made of light metal and wood are used for drying the film. The drying-room must be clean; for even the smallest particle of dust on the film will be magnified many

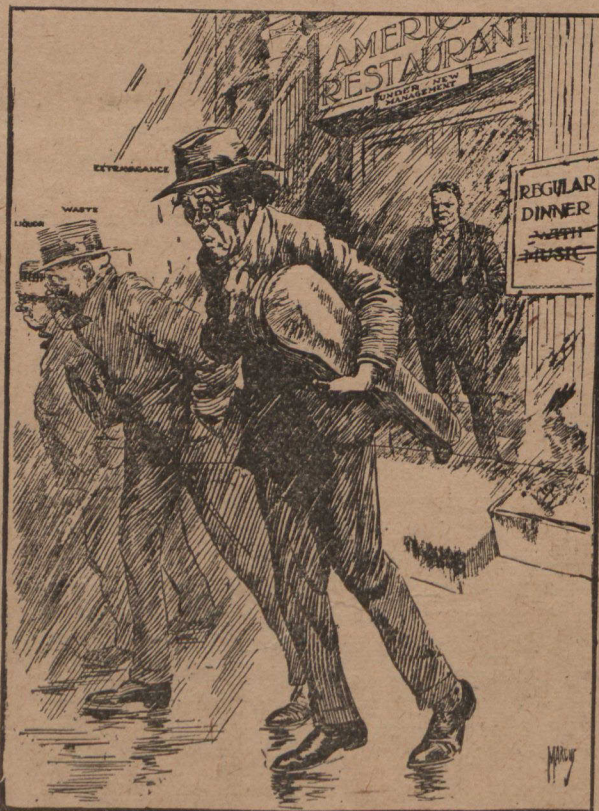
times when the picture is screened. Printing is done in the well-known way, except that the positive is printed on celluloid instead of on sensitized paper. Great care is necessary in printing, as uneven work will produce a bad "flicker" on the screen.

THE Japan Chronicle notes the fact that recently a Japanese girl came to Kobe to work in the house of an English lady. A portrait of a young man in khaki stood on the mantelpiece of one room, and as the mistress speaks Japanese fluently, the girl asked about him and his uniform. On being told that he was fighting in the great war in Europe, she asked, "What war?" Further inquiry showed that this young woman, though quite intelligent, had never heard of the war. She herself had lost her father in the Russo-Japanese War when she was about 7 or 8 years old, and her mother had had a terrible struggle to maintain the family. But she had not heard of any war being waged at present.

JUST TO READ ALOUD

ONCE the master of a steamer, while loading at a Scotch port, took on two hands—one without a written "character" and another with an abundance of documentary evidence as to his

DISCHARGING THE MUSICIANS.



Manager: "I can't keep you and hold down expenses, too."

—Marcus, in New York Times.

honesty and uprightness. They had not been long at sea when they encountered rough weather, and the man with the written recommendations, while crossing the deck with a bucket in his hand, was swept overboard. The other hand saw what had happened and sought out the captain. "Do you remember the man from Dundee," he asked, "that you engaged with the fine character?" Yes," said the captain. "What of it?" "Weel, he's run awa' wi' your bucket."

"NOW be a good little girl and drink the nice medicine," said Mr. Jones to his eight-year-old daughter. "Taint nice," responded the child, as she pushed the spoon and spilt the medicine over the quilts in her cot. Wearied with his endeavours, Mr. Jones brought a shining 10-cent piece out of his pocket, and after offering it the medicine was gulped down in a hurry. The next day there was more insubordination, but this time it was the piano, and the mother was concerned. "What a naughty girl you are for refusing to practise your piano lesson," said the mother. "Don't care," grumbled the youngster, giving the piano a kick. "Now, dear, I will give you a penny if you will practice," said the mother. "I won't practise," replied the child, as she jumped off the piano stool. "I can make more money than that taking castor oil."

A STORY about Lord Kitchener, who was often spoken of as "the most distinguished bachelor in the world," is being told. A young member of his staff when he was in India asked for a furlough in order to go home and be married. Kitchener listened to him patiently, then he said: "Kenilworth, you're not yet twenty-five. Wait a year. If then you still desire to do this thing you shall have leave." The year passed. The officer once more proffered his request. "After thinking it over for twelve months," said Kitchener, "you still wish to marry?" "Yes, sir." "Very well, you shall have your furlough. And, frankly, my boy, I scarcely thought there was so much constancy in the masculine world." Kenilworth, the story concludes, marched to the door, but turned to say as he was leaving: "Thank you, sir. Only it's not the same woman."

PAT O'FLAHERTY, very palpably not a prohibitionist, was arrested in Arizona recently charged with selling liquor in violation of the prohibition law. But Pat had an impregnable defence.

His counsel, in addressing the jury, said:

"Your Honour, gentlemen of the jury, look at the defendant."

A dramatic pause, then:

"Now, gentlemen of the jury, do you honestly think that if the defendant had a quart of whiskey he would sell it?"

The verdict, reached in one minute, was "Not guilty."

Our Wheat of 1917

(Concluded from page 6.)

exporter and the bank manager thinks it is necessary. Only the other day an announcement was made in the British House of Commons that trading in futures could not be abolished by international agreement, because in the wheat producing countries it was considered a necessary safeguard to the business.

A board has been appointed by the Government to deal with the grain crop of 1917. It is a good board, or rather let us say that it is composed of a number of good men, representatives of the farmers, of labour, of the millers, of the Canadian grain trade, of the British purchasing commission. It would be an excellent arbitration commission, to bring in a report. But we don't want an arbitration commission. It is the government that must decide on the wholesale purchase of the 1917 crop as a measure of war. The board would be an excellent body to carry it out.

Some day I should like to argue with Mr. McLeod the economic theory of trading in futures as part of the regular grain business. Particularly would it be interesting to contest his statement that 95 per cent. of the western farmers object to trading in futures. Reference to the records of farmers' organizations and companies owned by farmers might be used in refutation. Just now it does not matter. We have a few weeks in which to decide on the policy for handling our 1917 crop. Will it not be in order to invite Mr. McLeod to join in an effort, not to influence the Government's action, but to persuade the editor and the readers of the Canadian Courier to demand immediate Government action for wholesale purchase of this year's crop.