

Printers' Pie

A Page of Press Opinion, Wit and Humor

MEMORABLE.

(Springfield Republican.)

The glad new year will be memorable if it does no more than bring national prohibition as a "war measure" in peace time.

TEACHING CHILDREN.

(Saturday Evening Post.)

Make a boy think he is really doing something, really getting a grip on the world about him — and there will be no more complaint of laziness. It is a very familiar fact that if a grammar-school boy once gets into the real creative world of industry he can hardly be dragooned back to textbooks and school routine. The big thing in education is so to link up the school with the visible, bustling world as to keep the child's workmanlike instincts engaged. The fairly common pedagogic—and parental—complaint that children are lazy is entirely wrong. Anybody, teacher or parent, who thinks that, is on the wrong track.

WALTER HINES PAGE.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

Walter Hines Page, who died the other day at Pinehurst, N. C., gave his life to his country as surely as the bravest soldier killed on the battlefield. Mr. Page was our ambassador at the Court of St. James during the darkest days of the war.

While it was his part to maintain the neutrality of his government prior to our entrance into the conflict, he nevertheless labored arduously and successfully to cement the relations of friendships that existed between the American and British people and their respective governments, and he lived to see his country throw off her self imposed yoke of neutrality and take her place in the common league of nations fighting for all that life holds dear. He saw his work in England grow and blossom and fructify, the Anglo-Saxon race presenting a united front to a common foe and shedding its blood, sanctified in a glorious cause, that the Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence might continue to have vital force and meaning.

TRUE OF CANADA TOO.

(Saturday Evening Post.)

Two-thirds of our troubles in America are imported. Shall we keep on importing them? From our silly system of smart society, taken from European capitals with their class distinctions and monarchical traditions, down to our bogus Socialism, made in Germany and Russia as a panacea for conditions that were utterly foreign to America until indiscriminate immigration planted them in a few plague spots in our great cities, our worries are due to our carelessness as to who and what comes to America.

This whole business of immigration, both of ideas and men, needs revision. Why keep out anthrax and smallpox and admit rabies freely? We need an influx of labor to keep our factories going and to expand our commerce, is the usual answer. Not that kind of labor—nor any kind of labor that we cannot pay well and that is not good material for citizenship. For what shall it profit us to have all the commerce of the world if in the end we blow up in one grand Bolshevik bust? It might be better business to go just a little slower, to educate what unassimilated labor we have into American citizenship.

So in planning our new list of imports let us include only desirables. In planning our new list of exports let us head it with undesirables. Under our laws we send rotten food to the dump because it is a menace to health. Rotten men, who are poisoning America with rotten propaganda, belong there too. Why do they linger here when in Russia they can live the ideal that they preach? Utopia yawns for them. Make them go to it. We do not want them. America for Americans and men who want to be Americans.

THE RESERVED ENGLISH.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

The English yesterday spoiled their reputation for coldness and reserve. Their reception of President Wilson in London was as hearty and noisy as any one could wish.

SCOTTISH CAUTION.

(New York Herald.)

Titles make some men respectable in the eyes of the rabble. But great men make titles seem respectable in the eyes of the same. When they offered a peerage to Field Marshal Haig months ago he said: "Not now! Wait!" There spoke the Scot fearful of an anti-climax. He will sit in the reformed upper chamber not because he is a duke but because he served the Empire.

INTERVENTION ON LARGE SCALE.

(Utica Observer.)

The belief is growing in Europe that the peace conference will find it necessary to intervene in Russia and help the people of that country set up an orderly and stable government. Nothing else seems possible. There is no hope in the Bolsheviks, and if Russia is to be rescued from the darkest kind of savagery and anarchy the force which are now trying to bring order out of the chaos which prevails must be aided to the limit.

IMPROVE THE AIRPLANE.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

There is no reason to suppose that the officials of the federal government are lacking in appreciation of the urgent importance of maintaining the position we have gained, under the tremendous pressure of war necessities, in the development of aerial flight. We have created and improved apparatus of the very first order and have trained a small army of expert aviators, all, or nearly all, for the purposes of the war. It would be a fatal blunder, merely because the armistice has changed the nature and need of aerial effort, to permit any relaxation in the national energies in these directions.

NO SHORT CUT TO THE MILLENNIUM.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

As to the summing up of the whole matter, it is surely this, that there is no short-cut to the millennium. "Democracy," to quote Mr. Balfour once again, "is not a coat to be put on." It is not even a political system, it is a state of mind—a state of mind, moreover, not attained or attainable through legislation, but through understanding. The human mind is capable of many strange excursions. It catches queer, distorted views of great truths, and hastily builds round them its systems; but the next moment it is back again in the abyss of nonsense. And until humanity learns to lay judgment to the line and "righteousness to the plummet," that is to say, until it strives to conform its systems to Principle, Principle will overturn and overturn them, until, at last, "he come whose right it is."

ENGLAND'S UNEMPLOYED INSURANCE.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

In Great Britain there has been in existence a scheme of unemployed insurance in most industries which was part of the famous Insurance Act of 1911. It has now been decided that every soldier will receive on his discharge a certificate entitling him to one year's unemployment benefit. Civilians will receive unemployment benefit covering six months, but may not use more than thirteen weeks of that period. The Australian government has committed itself to the principle, as a minimum obligation, of assuming the responsibility of providing the returned soldier with an opportunity of earning at least a living wage and of granting sustenance until such opportunity is forthcoming. Here in Canada, the government might be well advised to evolve some similar scheme and see that it is based upon sound principles and administered with efficiency.

WILD WOMEN.

So far as known, remarks the Los Angeles Times, woman is the only wild animal that wears furs in the summer and chiffon in the winter. Maybe that's what makes her so wild.

DIFFERENT.

Mrs. Blank—I could have married Mr. Brown or Mr. Jones if I'd wanted to, and both of these men I refused got rich; while you are still as poor as a church mouse. Blank—Of course. I've been supporting you all these years—they haven't.

BRIEF BUT PITHY.

An American officer tells in the New York World of a letter he censored for a Texas soldier on the other side to his mother, breaking the news of his brother's death. The letter read as follows: "Dear Ma, you needn't bother to write to Ed any more as he got bumped off yesterday."

SHUT OUT.

"Who is this Dean Swift they are talking about?" a parvenue once said to Lady Bulwer. "I should like to invite him to my receptions. 'Alas, madam,' replied Lady Bulwer, 'the dean has done something that has shut him out of society.'" "Dear me, what was that?" "Well, about a hundred years ago he died."

ON HIS MIND.

The father in this moral little tale is a local manufacturer, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Things hadn't been going well at the works, and he came home tired the other evening. But father is never too tired to help Willie with his arithmetic. So when Willie looked up from his book and asked: "Father, how many cents made a dime?" "Ten," replied father. "And how many mills make a cent?" pursued Willie. "Not a darn one of 'em, till this coal situation loosens up," answered father, emphatically.

AIR CONQUEST.

It is certainly fitting that a statue should be erected to Wilbur Wright, and the epitaph is excellent: "I have wings and dare aspire. My flight is sure. I have ways to brave the tempest and penetrate the sky." Words of Victor Hugo.—Kingston Standard.

HE HAD.

Judging from the report as to new bombs, more deadly gas, bigger airplanes and so which the Entente Allies had almost ready before the armistice, the Huns would have been conquered in a very short time. No wonder Foch said "I have them."—Kingston Standard.

WOMEN DEFEAT WOMEN.

The defeat of the women candidates in the British elections is the more notable when it is remembered that six million women were voting on this occasion for the first time. Apparently the British women are not anxious to have their public business transacted by those of their own sex.—London Free Press.

THE FLAG AT WALFISH BAY.

"When elephants fight it is the grass that suffers," runs a proverb among the natives of East Africa, or that portion of it which will now cease to be known as German, and quoted in a recent official publication of the British Government. There is what the French call an "odeur du terroir" in the saying, and the "terroir" is that of Africa, the mysterious and immense, the land of the jungle, the "dark continent." The elephants have fought, and the outcome is an Africa freed from German kultur, and the "grass" will find that the bitterness of the trampling was not for nothing. As a young Herero puts it: "We often prayed and wished for the flag that was at Walfish Bay to come here and fly over us, as we know the British officials and the British soldiers were humane and just. God has heard our prayers, and we are contented and happy. Before, the future was dark; but now our people have hope again."—Christian Science Monitor.