

Go Over The Top in Victory Drive

voring to carry out a war policy that would be satisfactory to the whole country, must have shrunk from the issuing of the campaign appeal. He would, we are sure, have desired to avoid participation in any party movement. But the Democratic leaders would naturally call on him to help them. They could say with truth that while the Republicans were supporting him in the war they would not support him in his general policy, that for the choice of a Democratic President at the next election the Democrats must stand together now, that the men who had brought about his election as President had a right to expect his help, etc. To party pressure of this kind, probably against his own judgment, Mr. Wilson yielded. Naturally enough, his Democratic appeal to the people was met by vigorous answers from the Republicans. And so the bitter fight went on.

The battle will end to-day, and probably both sides will be able to see things in a clearer light to-morrow. Although a new Congress will be chosen to-day, it will not actually enter upon its duties until next March. In the meantime the present Congress, which has stood loyally by Mr. Wilson, will remain in power. In all probability before the new Congress meets the war will be over. In any case, the sober minded American citizen should find comfort in the thought that no matter who wins to-day, nothing very dreadful will happen. "If," says the independent New York Evening Post, "the Republicans win, it will not go echoing through Europe that President Wilson has been repudiated by his own country, and is henceforth powerless. If the Democrats win, the Germans will not pluck up heart and say that now they can cheat the American Government with any old kind of lying peace. To whichever party the scales may incline in the Congressional elections, the result will be accepted by the clear-headed, who bear no malice in their hearts, as proof that in all fundamentals concerned with the war Americans are of one mind."

Retreat

ONE GOOD feature, perhaps, of the correspondence between the Berlin authorities and President Wilson is that in the terms of the German notes are seen confessions of German failure and German despair that have not been found in any other German utterance. Every official statement to the public from Berlin contained either a boast of German success or an intimation that in the presence of severe fighting the Germans had "repulsed" the enemy or punished him in "counter-attacks." The idea that the German armies were being badly beaten was systematically concealed from that part of the public that was dependent on German information. In Germany's last note to Mr. Wilson there is the first admission of "retreat." Replying to the President's reference to the inhuman conduct of the Germans even in their retiring movement, the German Secretary Solf says: "For the covering of a retreat destructions will always be necessary, and they are carried out insofar as permitted by international law." The Germans all through the war have shown contempt for international law, and it would be too much to expect that they will have much regard for it now. But it is worth something to have the German Government

confess, in a document that they can hardly conceal from their people, that the great army, so long and so recently pictured as winning daily victories for the glory of Germany, is endeavoring to "retreat," and begging for mercy from the foes that the Kaiser and his gang professed to despise. The knowledge that is in this way being conveyed to the German people has a value.

The German Honor

ONE of the most impudent passages in the last German note to President Wilson is that which says that the German Government "trusts that the President of the United States will approve of no demand which would be irreconcilable with the honor of the German people and with opening a way to a peace of justice." In the presence of such surpassing hypocrisy what wonder is it that there is a widespread demand in the American press that the President refuse to have further communication with the alleged Government at Berlin? Honor? When did the German people—as represented by the men for whose conduct they must accept responsibility—show any respect for honor? What pledge can any German authority give more distinct, more binding, than Germany's guarantee of the neutrality of Belgium? Yet the moment it suited their vile purpose the German people—that is to say, the German military party whom the German people permitted to act for them—violated the pledge and invaded peaceful Belgium in a manner that, for every form of brutality and crime, was without precedent in history. And for four years on land and sea and undersea those who were permitted to represent Germany pursued methods of warfare which shocked the civilized world. And now a German minister dares to appeal to the President of free America to have a tender regard for German honor!

Political Muddles

SEVERAL Provincial elections that have occurred lately serve to indicate the very muddled condition of party politics at present. The district of Manitoulin, in Ontario, long known as a strong Conservative section, has surprised the country by electing an independent farmer by a considerable majority over the recognized candidate of the Provincial Government. Mr. Bowman, the member-elect, was nominated by the United Farmers of Ontario, a body which apparently is likely to play a large part in the political affairs of the Province.

In the district of Red Deer, in Alberta, a more remarkable incident has happened. In the Dominion election a few months ago, Dr. Michael Clark, a well known Liberal Unionist, won by a very large majority over an opponent who was known as a "straight Liberal." The leader of the Provincial Opposition, Mr. Michener, having been appointed to the Senate, a bye-election was ordered. Both Dr. Clark and Senator Michener warmly supported Mr. Galbraith, editor of a local newspaper, who ran as a "Unionist." Against him was nominated Mr. Gaetz, a Liberal, a straight supporter of the Local Government, of which Mr. Stewart is now Premier. The question at issue seemed to be whether there was need of Unionism in a

Provincial election. The large majority that had been given for Dr. Clark seemed to render it probable that Mr. Galbraith, also running as a Unionist, and supported by Dr. Clark, would win easily. But the electors, evidently either had tired of Unionism, or were of opinion that it had no business in Provincial politics. Mr. Gaetz, the straight Liberal-Stewart Government candidate, won by the sweeping majority of 879, and Mr. Galbraith lost his deposit.

Truly it is hard to understand the political events of these times.

Profitable Patriotism

IF the terms of the Victory Loan were less favorable to the investor, the money required should be forthcoming. The patriotic spirit of the country should respond to the call even if it required some sacrifice. But in this case patriotism and profit are combined in an unusual degree. The rate of interest allowed—5½ per cent.—is high, so much so that the Minister is pretty certain to have to meet the criticism that his loan is costing too much. Certainly the inducements to the investor are all that anybody can reasonably ask. Five and a half per cent. is a most generous rate on a security of the very highest grade, and when you add the exemption from taxation you have a combination of advantage that is rarely found. It is altogether probable that the tempting terms will bring considerable money from abroad. But the home subscription is the desirable thing. There is no excuse for anybody, who has means to invest, failing to subscribe for the Victory Loan. There is no other available investment which combines so many elements of security and profit.

The Australian Loan

THE Australian Government, as before noticed, while not undertaking conscription of men, brought in legislation to authorize conscription of capital so far as to compel people to subscribe for the new Australian war loan. It is now announced that in consequence of the liberal response to the Government call for money the proposed conscription will be abandoned. It is another case of "Don't shoot, Davy, I'll come down."

Police and Trade Unions

IN view of the wide movement for the affiliation of police forces with trade union organizations, it is not surprising that the Dominion Government have issued orders that neither the Royal North-West Mounted Police nor the Dominion Police shall form such connections. These two police forces are under Dominion control, subject to Dominion laws. The police of our cities are parts of our municipal system, which is governed by the laws of the several provinces. The Provincial authorities may find it necessary to enact such legislation as will guard against the placing of the police of our cities under the orders of alleged leaders in New York or San Francisco.