

## Public Opinion

### WHAT THOUGHTS AND LAUGHTER SELL FOR.

(Commerce and Finance).

An obscure newspaper paragraph last week reported the value of the estate of Prof. Hugo Muens-terberg of Harvard University. He left \$5,000.

This was the total wealth of the best known psychologist in the United States. He was the author of a dozen books—all enjoying a larger circulation than the ordinary book on psychology. If this was the estate of the best known psychologist what will be the estate of the others?

The best professors get from \$3,000 to \$6,000 a year. Leading universities pay football coaches more than their highest paid professors. So much for the value that our universities put upon knowl- edge.

In the outside world we should expect to find conditions worse. They are. Exclude Mr. Brisbane, and it is safe to say that leading cartoonists are paid more than leading editors. Several motion picture actors and actresses receive more than the country pays its President. Charlie Chaplin's salary has been reported in excess of \$500,000 a year.

The public will pay well those who give it what it wants. Those who give it not what it wants, but what it ought to have, will not be paid so well. The public will pay well those who make it laugh. But how meagre is the recompense of those who try to make it think!

### COME ACROSS!

(Saturday Evening Post).

On every hand in this country you hear expressions of admiration and sympathy for France. The pro-German takes off his hat to the defenders of Verdun. The plain American finds in French heroism and efficiency a strong vindication of democracy at a time when events elsewhere have cast a doubt upon it. The pro-Ally speaks of France with devotional emotion.

All of which does France no particular good. She has lost a million men. Many of them were bread-winners of families that had no other means of support. Several hundred thousand young orphans face a world whose bare cupboards are not made more nourishing to them by sentimental admiration of the manner in which their fathers died.

A fairer opportunity to prove up could not be desired. Are your admiration and sympathy for France genuine or bogus? If the situation and conduct of France have really touched your emotions, help the orphaned children of France.

### THINGS THAT SOUND ALIKE.

(Minneapolis Journal).

It is surprising how much inaccurate information is current about public questions. Things that sound alike are confused in the public mind, despite the readiness with which they may be distinguished.

For example, speak of universal military training, and a considerable proportion of supposedly intelligent persons will assume that you mean universal military service—a very different thing. Indeed, the inevitable coming of universal training will, no doubt, be much delayed by this misunderstanding.

The other day we printed a letter from a correspondent who assumed that universal training was synonymous with militarism. Yet no one could accuse Switzerland or Holland, or Sweden, or Norway, or Australia of being weighed down by the burden of militarism, though each gives all its young men military training.

### LONG WANTED "HERO" FOUND.

(Louisville Courier-Journal).

If it is true that the Kaiser pinned an iron cross on himself the day the Germans made proposals for peace he must be the hero whom Ella Wheeler Wilcox sought in the poem in which she says "the man worth while is the man who can smile when every- thing goes dead wrong."

### BOXED ON NO MAN'S LAND.

(New York Evening Post).

There is a story of Gallipoli that deals with a fight in the open and exhibits the unspeakable Turk as a fair and worthy enemy—not the least what the British troops thought him to be when they went out. This is the story:

A young English officer, doing observation work alone, was suddenly confronted by a Turkish officer, similarly engaged. The Turk was as surprised as the Briton, but came forward, revolver in hand. The Englishman had no revolver. He stood his ground, his hands in the large pockets of his tunic.

Seeing that his adversary was unarmed, the Turk, much to the surprise of the Briton, threw down his gun and put up his fists in approved prize-ring style. The Englishman put himself on guard, and the next moment the Turk flung himself upon him, and the pair began to fight desperately.

The men were about the same age, the same weight, and had equal knowledge of the art of boxing. They fought without stopping for about ten minutes. By that time each was fairly exhausted, and they paused for a brief rest, only to continue their little private accounting when they had found their breath. Round after round the fight went on, while out in the Gulf of Saros the ships fired automatically, and back of them the field artillery thundered. Neither seemed to be able to get any decisive advantage over the other, and at last Turk and Englishman rolled over the ground and laughed and laughed. Just then the Englishman's hand touched something. It was the Turk's pistol. He picked it up and handed it to his enemy. The two young men shook hands and each returned to his own lines.

### POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

(Vancouver World).

The World, as an independent newspaper, does not interpret its independence to mean that it is to remain silent on a public question lest people should withdraw their subscriptions when they differ with its views, or that it should cultivate a lofty scorn of politics altogether. Politics has its place. It is a means to an end—and that end is good government. But partizanship is another thing altogether. With it we have neither truck nor trade.

### SANITARY PREPAREDNESS COUNTS.

(London Globe).

The present is the first great war in history which has not been followed by its attendant disease. During the previous invasion of France 74,205 men in the German field army contracted typhoid and gastric fevers and 8,904 succumbed to them. Moreover, after the seven months of the war of 1870 were over the returning soldiers brought with them an epidemic of smallpox, from which upward of 170,000 died throughout the German empire.

### WANTED—AN OFFICE BOY.

(Wall Street Journal).

The future magnate who started in as an office boy in 1916 will be unable to boast to his grandchildren how he began life on a mere pittance. For the office boy of to-day is a plutocrat. In no class of labor has the wage scale advanced so greatly as it has for the small boy who usually guards the door of the big man's sanctum. Corporations which have been accustomed to starting in youngsters just out of school at \$4 to \$5 a week are now forced to pay as high as \$10, and even at that they are having trouble in getting boys.

### SOLIDARITY.

(Saskatoon Phoenix).

Organization has come; more of it is coming. The people who will not organize must be content to stay out in the cold. The privileges of aristocracy and landlordism are gradually, but surely, being curtailed. The Producer is coming into his own, be it ever so slowly.

### ONE REMEDY FOR DIVORCE.

(Detroit Free Press).

"If we could find some way to restore the fine old home spirit of the past," says Miss Mary Bartelme in an interview printed the other day in Chicago, "we would find a sure way of getting at the roots of a good bit of the divorce trouble."

This piece of philosophy is worth the deepest consideration of all who deplore the divorce evil and who seek ways and means to combat it. What is needed is the cultivation of the real home making, homekeeping, and home dwelling spirit, if divorce is really to be in any appreciable degree throttled or checked. The conditions in which evil flourishes must first be eradicated before evil can be obliterated. The making of restrictive regulations and laws and fulminations will not answer.

The divorce evil is a product of many factors. Among these are hasty, ill assorted marriages and lack of engrossing interests, giving room for idling and its consequences. Homes that are mere sleeping and eating places, as fleeting as the tent of the Arab, are in no real sense homes. Home is where the family lives, moves, and has its being; where each strives for its permanency, upbuilding, and beautification. The family must be a well ordered republic in miniature and the home must be the arena of its principal activities. A home must have attractions, liberties, and restrictions. And for each inmate it must be the supreme and vital thing. All outside activities must be subordinated to and for the interests of the home. Its burdens must be lightened and its joys increased by being shared by all its inmates.

And lastly it must be a refuge. When the door closes it must shut out the world of strangers. The walls must inclose a little, pleasant world of their own. There must be a feeling of patriotism for home, so to say. Interests thus closely bound en-wrap attention and effort and leave little room for the entry of discord. And where there is little discord there is no divorce.

People busy making a real home are too busy to fight or to visit the divorce court.

### PRICE AND QUANTITY.

(Boston News Bureau).

Unless all economic laws are at fault and all economic history is to be falsified, the world is preparing for some phenomenally low food prices. Present high prices will induce the largest planting and the most energetic cultivation and reaping the world around. Two or three years of high priced food will do more to stimulate agriculture than all the agricultural colleges in the world combined.

When will consumers, politicians and statesmen realize that the way to get food produced is to raise the price? The problem of clean, wholesome milk will never be solved until somebody sets up the highest standards and delivers the best article at twenty-five cents per quart or within a cent or two per quart of the cost of producing the article.

Standard Oil is one of the most efficient business organizations in the world. It has been operated for a generation upon the simple theory of regulation in oil production by advancing the bid price when there is a scarcity.

### SCANT FOOD IN GERMANY.

(New York Literary Digest).

We are getting so few reports from Germany itself, telling how the war is affecting the great civil population, that the recent letters of Madeleine Doty to the New York Tribune and the Chicago Tribune attract more than usual interest. This woman lawyer and writer, travelling in the Fatherland, has come into direct contact with the people, and has found the situation to be vastly different than the news dispatches would have us believe. Just how they are stinted in matters of food—always a theme of interest to a race like the Germans, who find much of the joy of life depending upon things culinary—is revealed in her contributions to the American press in a completeness which makes the British blockade a real and terrible thing, to all readers.

For instance, Miss Doty reports that the girth of the average German is passing from rotundity to the severest leanness, and that the great mass of the people are being driven gradually to desperation by the increasing ravages of hunger.