

## Public Opinion

### TO MEET PLAIN "MISTER" BALFOUR.

(Toronto Globe).

In one respect Montreal's welcome to Mr. Balfour outshone Toronto's. Montreal provided two Canadian Lords and ten Canadian Knights at one function.

### UNCLE SAM'S TURN NEXT.

(Chicago Tribune).

Nothing would have influenced President Wilson to take this lukewarm nation into war except the conviction, the knowledge that if Germany defeated Great Britain our turn was next. We should have had all the money and none of the guns, wide open and inviting conquest.

### BRITISH PRE-WAR CONTRACTS.

(Philadelphia Commercial Museum).

A committee has been appointed by the British Board of Trade to consider and report on the position of British manufacturers and merchants after the war in respect to the war with persons or companies in the United Kingdom or in Allied or Neutral countries, the fulfillment of which has been prevented, or impeded by the war, and as to the measures, if any, which are necessary or desirable in this respect.

### VELVET.

(Louisville Courier-Journal).

Few persons realize that velvet was developed and originated in China. Thence velvet making was introduced into India, and, in the fourteenth century, into Italy, where that sort of fabric especially appealed and where the art of velvet making reached its height. It is said that velvet was first inspired by fur and that it was in order to make a silken fabric on the same order as fine fur that man first set his wits about to invent this.

### MOLYBDENUM A TREASURE.

(Christian Science Monitor).

The more one learns about molybdenum the more one feels that Canada, which is the principal source of this metal, has in it a product quite as valuable as nickel, if not more so. Molybdenum is now used as a substitute for tungsten or vanadium in hardening steel, for which purpose its use is far more economical. It lengthens greatly the durability of gun metal and armor plate. It is valuable in high explosives, and it has other uses in war. But this is not all. It takes the place of platinum in the compounding of chemicals used for dyes, while it has also been found effective as a support of the filament of electric lamps. Its possibilities, however, are only beginning to make themselves known.

### TOO OLD AT FORTY?

That is a wall that always goes up throughout the country. But a writer in the June American Magazine says it could be disregarded if people made themselves more useful as they grew older. He writes: "For man to be too old at forty is not natural. Scientists tell us that the life periods of man compare with the life history of the race.

"In most businesses and professions the period of manhood is commonly the period of great skill. The body still retains its elasticity; previous training and acquired good habits count in daily work; experience now begins to return dividends. The individual develops common sense, conservatism and deliberation. He is less likely to be swayed by the primitive emotions of younger life. Well-laid plans mature; returns from previous investments in time, labor and money begin to come in.

"But it is during this period that the competition of newer workers in the same field begins to be felt. The apprentices in the trades, and students in the schools begin to get a foothold in competition with the established worker. And—what is of vital importance—the beginner is willing to work much cheaper than the experienced man. Thus, experience must guard against the under-cut.

"It is in this period that the greatest displacement occurs. The unprogressive, the dissipated, the timorous, are pushed aside to make room for those having more enterprise."

### WHY NOT?

(Toronto Globe).

With the price of potatoes soaring, the Government collects a specific duty of twenty cents on every bushel imported into this country, and in addition an ad valorem tax of 7½ per cent. Why not give the consumers relief by remitting the duty until the Canadian crop is ready? New potatoes are coming from Florida this month, and will come from Virginia next month. There will be no question of competition with the Canadian product. The Canadian growers' interest could not be adversely affected by the free entrance of American potatoes for the next two months, and every householder would be benefited by the removal of the tax.

### THE STREETS OF BAGDAD.

(Buffalo Commercial).

The streets of old Bagdad are noted for their narrowness, their irregularity and their picturesqueness. The winding alleys that serve as streets are crowded with noisy, jostling people, dressed in their gayly colored Oriental garments. Even the water supply of Bagdad, which is drawn from the River Tigris, is carried through the streets and distributed from house to house on the backs of men or beasts.

The roofs of the houses are all flat, having parapets running around to protect the dwellers from the public gaze, for the people of Bagdad spend the cool hours of the day upon their roofs. During the middle of the day they stay in a sort of cellar, called a serdab, which is sunk below the level of the courtyard. These cellars are usually damp and over their half windows are arranged hurdles which are kept dripping wet. The principal family rooms of a Bagdad home open directly from a covered veranda.

### CONSERVATION OF LABOR.

(The New Republic).

If we are wise and far-sighted we shall enforce child labor laws and school laws more rigidly than ever just now. We shall scrutinize and regulate every single use of children in industry, for there must be nothing heedless in this emergency about our use of human resources. More than that, we shall stimulate educational activity, especially in industrial training, and support as never before public and private child welfare agencies, if we are going to make the most of the material we have in hand. In short, we must protect, train, and develop children now for the simple reason that for the future, both remote and immediate, we need a more intelligent and able-bodied set of people than ever. "The nation is under special obligation to secure that the rising generation grows up strong and hardy both in body and character," is the solemn warning of England, which has been at war for three years, to America on the threshold of war.

### ARE YOU A SLACKER?

(Richmond, Va., Times-Despatch).

America must win this war, and you, men, are America. Each of you must shoulder your share of the burden. That is your plain duty, not to be blinked or evaded, and if you are the same stuff of which your fathers were made, you will not try to evade it.

What are you doing—you, yourself—that your price-less heritage of freedom may not be taken away? Have you shouldered a rifle? Have you added to the production of food? Have you bought a Liberty bond? Are you aiding the Red Cross? Are you preparing yourself, with all the ardor that is in you, to render one or all of these patriotic services?

If not, you are a slacker—a slacker in this holiest of holy wars. You have let yourself drift with the tide of loose thinking that is our country's curse. You are seeing rainbows in skies overhung with dark and menacing clouds. You are consoling yourself with false consolations and purchasing peace of mind with base currency.

Awake! Think! Your country is at war—at war with the cruellest and most relentless of enemies, terrible despite all buffetings, in its military might. Consider your own duty, and do it. Leave whining and complaining to the coward and the knave.

Are you a slacker? Look deep into your heart before you answer No.

### SHOULD BE UNIVERSAL.

(Christian Science Monitor).

Everybody who thinks rightly on the subject will agree that liquor should be excluded from military and naval stations, and that the protection of prohibition should everywhere be thrown around enlisted men. But why should the reform stop here? Why should there be one law for the men at the front and another for those who remain at home? Why should not prohibition be universal, wherever floats the stars and stripes, during the war?

### TEA-LESS.

(Simcoe Reformer).

Some one complains of a threatened shortage of tea. What would be the really serious results if it was shut off altogether? The Reformer man is fairly nourished and gets along without it. If you get down to brass tacks, the best drink in the world, and the most healthful, is the cheapest. Drink water, don't worry, d—n the Hohenzollerns, and you will be, at least, moderately comfortable.

### "WI' A HUNDRED PIPERS AND A'"

The advance of the Canadian Highlanders, with their pipes playing, made a great impression, said a wounded soldier, speaking of an incident at Vimy Ridge. One Canadian Highland Battalion boasts of a pipe-major, Richardson, who during a particularly fierce fight on the Somme marched up and down in front of the German wire, playing his pipes until our force got through. Then Richardson went through too and was killed in the enemy trenches. When this same battalion moved up for the Vimy attack its pipers begged to be allowed to take part. One went with each company, and the pipe-major accompanied the colonel. The colonel was very ill with gastritis but refused to be absent.

The men said it was a wonderful sight—the colonel and the pipe-major marching in step under the heavy fire. They moved straight on, turning aside for nothing. The skirl of the pipes could be heard even amid the deafening noise of the bursting shells. Wounded men lying in shell-holes raised themselves on their elbows and cheered. "We all fought better for the sound of the pipes," said one soldier.

### "WHAT YE SHARE."

(Wall Street Journal).

To-day the great war in Europe will enter upon its one thousand and thirty-fifth day. During that time some 9,000,000 of people in Belgium and northern France have been dependent upon the aid of the charitable, without which they would have experienced the last effect of famine. The subscriptions of the people of the United States, in a time of unexampled prosperity, have provided for these unhappy people for exactly 45 days. France and Great Britain with the almost intolerable burden of the war, have between them done 20 times what we have done, out of their incomparably smaller resources.

A concerted effort, based upon sound business principles, is now being made to raise \$100,000,000 for the Red Cross. Harry P. Davison is giving his time exclusively to the direction of this great effort, and on Friday night was able to gather round him at the Metropolitan Club perhaps the most representative gathering of newspaper editors which has ever been seen in New York, and certainly one which no other cause could have brought out. Proceedings were confidential and the discussion of a most practical character. There is nothing more practical than the right kind of charity, well applied.

In the example quoted above the fundamental and spiritual difference between our giving as a people and the gifts of our allies is brought out. We give generously of what we can well spare. But the British and the French have given systematically, week in and week out, of what they can ill spare. Our gift doubtless leaves us with a glow of satisfaction, but theirs carries with it the necessity for personal sacrifice to meet the needs of those whose necessities are more desperate than their own.

Perhaps no newspaper in the world appeals to more wealth, in the aggregate, than The Wall Street Journal. But here is an appeal to something more than wealth. It is an appeal for sacrifice, not merely the sacrifice that men holding great and lucrative positions are making in the generous gift of their services to Red Cross work, but that sacrifice which involves doing without something desirable and innocent in order to minister to misery and pain. The call is less to give than to share:

"My holy supper ye keep indeed

In whatever ye share with another's need;

Not what ye give, but what ye share,

For the gift without the giver is bare.

Who offers himself with his alms feeds three  
Himself, and his hungering neighbor and Me."