

cold air downward through a pipe covered with asbestos into one of the rooms of the house. The doors were kept shut and the windows were opened at the top. The temperature in that room was perfectly comfortable, about 65 degrees.

At that time the papers were speaking of some ice plant that had been installed in the White House and congratulated the President upon a temperature of only 80 degrees when the thermometer showed 100 degrees outside.

Destruction's Wake

PHILIP GIBBS, the famous English novelist correspondent in the June Issue of the Current History, describes in a vivid way how war has killed not only man life and driven out animal life, but has blasted vegetation itself. We often hear it said that the Germans make a corpse of every territory they evacuate. According to Gibbs, speaking of the long-sustained Battle of Arras, more frightful now even than in the worst days of Winter is the way up to the front. In all that great stretch of desolation the British left behind the shell craters which were full of water, red water and green water, are now dried up and are hard, deep pits, scooped out of the powdered earth from which all vitality is gone so that spring brings no life to it. I thought, perhaps, that some of these shell-slashed woods would put out new shoots when spring came, and I watched them curiously for any sign of rebirth. But there is no sign and their poor mutilated limbs, their broken and tattered trunks, stand naked and stark under the blue sky. Everything is dead, with a white, ghastly look in the brilliant sunshine except where here and there in a litter of timber and brickwork which marks the site of a French village a little bush is in bud or flowers blossom in a scrap heap which once was a garden.

All this is the background of the present battle, and through this vast stretch of barren country British battalions move slowly forward to take part in the battle when their turn comes, resting a night or two among the ruins where other men who work always behind the lines road-mending, wiring, on the supply column, at ammunition dumps, in casualty clearing stations, and railheads make their billets on the lee side of the broken walls or in holes dug deep by the enemy and reported safe for use. Dead horses lie on the roadsides or in great shell craters. I passed a row of these poor beasts as though all had fallen down and died together in a last comradeship. Dead Germans or bits of dead Germans lie in old trenches, and a few days ago I watched the bombardment of Lens close to the bones of a little Frenchman who had worn the red trousers of the old army when he fought down the slopes of Notre Dame de Lorette to the outskirts of Souchez. He seemed like a man of ancient history, and that red scrap of clothing belonged to an epoch long gone.

From Missouri on Conscription

EVIDENTLY Congress is not a unit on conscription, any more than the Canadian Parliament is, when we observe that the Speaker, Champ Clark, made a vicious attack on the bill in the House when, according to the Congressional Record, the Speaker said:

"If poor men's sons have to go into this war, and of course they will—for nobody is fighting the creation of an army here, nobody is fighting against this war, but we are exercising the freedom of speech to express our opinion about what we think is the best way to raise an army—then I am everlastingly and teetotally opposed to giving rich men's sons an opportunity to back out of the war by buying their way out and letting the rest of our boys do the fighting."

The Congressional Record continues:

Mr. Mann.—Mr. Chairman, our distinguished Speaker just said that he voted to strike the word "selective" out of the term "selective draft" because he wanted all on an equal footing. It is strange that he does not know what the word "selective" means, and that the term "selective draft" has nothing whatever to do with the exemptions provided for those who are drafted by the selective method.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri.—I would like to ask the gentleman one other question. Have these provisions about bounties and substitutes in the old law ever been repealed?

Mr. Mann.—They have all been repealed.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri.—When?

Mr. Mann.—Long ago.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri.—When were they repealed?

Mr. Mann.—Well, if they were not repealed before, they were repealed last year in the national defence act, but they were repealed years ago before the distinguished Speaker or myself came to Congress. There is no law authorizing a bounty or authorizing substitution. We fix here in this bill terms which can not be altered.

Meanwhile Ambassador Gerard, says the North American Review, felt called upon to remark in the course of a public speech in New York:

"We have Champ Clark coming out and saying that the flower of our young men must volunteer first. He says the War Office is jumping around trying to bulldoze people into passing the bill. He is lost in the terminology of old times."

No Democratic Instinct

THE truth is, says the editor of the North American Review, the Germans are the least democratic people on the face of the earth. They have no political instinct; they care not a rap for political freedom; they take about as much interest in the Reichstag as a New Yorker in the State Assembly at Albany and they think about as highly of it. They have always followed and never led.



POLITICAL INSANITY.

Antidraft Politician—"No! We must first take a referendum to see if the people want the fire extinguished and the house saved."

—Daily Star (Montreal).

Their progress has been fashioned for them and imposed upon them from above. They have tested its results and before the war they found them good. It is not merely that they lack the capacity—they lack even the desire—to take the reins into their own hands. Discipline and autocratic leadership have rescued them from impotence and chaos; they are convinced that nothing else can preserve them in security. If the German, then, submits to authority where an American or an Englishman would start a riot it is because, in the first place, authority has justified itself, and, in the second, because his reason approves of it. The need for a united front takes precedence of everything, and to insure it the German willingly, consciously, intelligently, as a matter of commonsense and prudence, sacrifices a large measure of personal and political freedom. He is deprived of nothing that he values; the chains do not gall him; habit and history and a malleable disposition and his own assenting judgment of the necessities of the situation make him not merely tolerant of autocracy but a firm upholder of its meth-

ods and implications. A community regimented from top to bottom, a Parliamentary system that serves merely as a screen for autocratic rule, a Press that dare not call its soul its own, the churches and schools and universities turned into State gramophones, popular opinion utterly inoperative in national affairs, and the remotest details of daily existence regulated by official prescriptions—these are the features of a system that thoroughly commends itself to the mind of the ordinary German. He likes it. He is used to it. He has prospered and grown great under it, and had it not been for the war he would have been very chary about changing it. When Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, in the first speech he delivered as Chancellor, declared his utter disbelief in the possibility of the party form of Government in Germany he carried with him the assent of the vast majority of the German people. When Prince Bulow affirmed that it was "contrary to the wishes of the German people" that the Kaiser should be a mere Constitutional ruler, he spoke the truth. The Germans, before the war, did not care for political liberty and did not believe in it. The upper classes strongly supported and still support the present system; the masses were not, nor perhaps are they now, keen politicians; the lines of division in Germany have always been social and not political; and the average German readily puts up with a great deal of political subjection so long as he retains the only sort of freedom he really values—the freedom to live as he likes, to dress as he likes, to think as he likes on all non-political subjects, and to defy the dominion of the tyrant that rides roughshod over all British and most American life—the next-door neighbor and all the conventions and respectabilities that are welded into that fearsome instrument of oppression, the "opinion of the neighborhood." It is clear, therefore, that revolution in Germany has obstacles ahead of it.

Ireland is Not Poor

ONE of the principal grounds upon which the demand for Home Rule is based is the claim that Ireland is a poor and decaying country, says Edgar Crammond, the well-known economist, in the Nineteenth Century, and that England has checked her economic development. This is a complete fallacy. In the Irish Nationalist Party, Ireland possesses a remarkable publicity department; one of the most perfectly organized and efficient machines of its kind in existence. Owing to the ceaseless activities of this organization the people of Great Britain and the world in general are still under the impression that Ireland is a poverty-stricken country and that the economic condition of her people has made no progress in recent years. But as a matter of fact Ireland is one of the most prosperous and progressive portions of the Empire.

For the last thirty-five years she has had the benefit of Land Laws which have caused the envy of English and Scottish tenant farmers, and finally by the aid of money advanced by the British Exchequer, about two-thirds of the Irish tenant farmers have been made owners of the land they till or have entered into agreements which when completed will make them owners. Under the Labourers Acts advances have been made to a large amount for building good slated houses, and a great number of houses have been built and are held with half an acre, and sometimes an acre, of land at rents far below their real value. Advances are made by the Board of Works to owners and occupiers of land for building, draining, and improving their land on most favourable terms. A Department of Agriculture has been established for the purpose of assisting farmers by advice, instruction, experiments, and the maintenance of pedigree sires. The Congested Districts Board has been occupied for the last twenty-five years in transforming the backward districts on the western seaboard; they have bought up large properties, rebuilt the houses, enlarged the holdings, drained the land, introduced good breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs, established industries and improved the fishing. These districts have also been opened up by the construction of light railways which facilitate the marketing of live stock, farm produce and fish. By the establishment in 1898 of District Councils and County Councils the country has enjoyed for the last eighteen years the same measure of local government as England, Scotland and Wales.