

## Public Opinion

### CUTTING DOWN CREDIT.

(Editor and Publisher.)

A very significant statement made recently by a prominent Bank President in the U. S. reads as follows:

"When we see a man cutting down on his advertising, we cut down on his credit."

A word to the wise is sufficient.

### BURNING SAWDUST.

In some portions of France where coal is so scarce and consequently so expensive that it is altogether unobtainable by the poorer class of people, sawdust is being used as a substitute, according to the Popular Science Monthly. The sawdust is rammed down tightly in cylindrical metal boxes, and a few drops of petroleum are poured over it. The fire thus made can be used for cooking and all domestic purposes, and will burn for several hours.

### NEWSPAPERS NATION'S UNOFFICIAL ALLIES.

(Spokane, Wash., Chronicle.)

Public information is the safety and strength of free nations. No country could progress — trade conditions would be demoralized, patriotism would languish, discords would spread, graft and incompetency would thrive — if there were no mediums through which world events and news of public affairs could be told to the people. Here in the United States, with its hundred million people, the newspaper is a gigantic public service ranking with any other force in the work of fighting the war of democracy.

### RUSSIAN CHAOS.

(New York Times.)

"Russia has fallen, and for generations to come will take the place of the Balkan states as a chess-board of international chicanery; for generations to come the empires will be carving her carcass, and, it may be, provoking each other to new wars over the choice bits. Nothing can prevent it except the complete destruction of militaristic autocracy in this war and the putting in its stead of the self-determination of peoples."

### SIR CECIL ARTHUR SPRING-RICE.

(New York Herald.)

During the doubtful days of American neutrality he never lost faith. When he was subjected to unthinking criticism at home for his failure to imitate the methods of Count von Bernstorff he refused to be swerved from the straight and honest path. He believed firmly in the intelligence of the American people, their ability to solve for themselves their own problems, their fidelity to the great principles upon which this republic was founded. Events justified that faith. Happily, he lived to see its full fruition.

### GERMANY WITHIN.

(Adams, in Boston News Bureau.)

An American business man, whom I know well, dined last fall in one of the big cities of Germany. On the walls of the house hung nearly \$1,000,000 worth of paintings. He was astonished when the hostess said: "Christmas is approaching, won't you please give me a little present?" He responded: "Certainly, madam, if it is within my means."

She said: "Oh, you can afford it, you are going back to Switzerland to-morrow and I would like you to present me with that little cake of soap that I saw in your room to-day."

### LET THAT GO DOUBLE.

(Marse Henry in the Louisville Courier-Journal.)

If we equivocate we are lost. Freedom in the United States requires not only the destruction of Autocracy in Germany, but the total annihilation of Militarism and the Military spirit. If any power is left intact in Germany to make treaty with any other power we are lost. If all Government in Germany be not blotted out even as the Southern Confederacy in America was blotted out, we are lost. We have fought in vain, and all our sacrifices in blood and treasure will go for naught, if we make not clean and sure work of it. We must smite the Philistine.

### AN OFFICIAL STORY-TELLER.

(Family Herald.)

In several of the public libraries of Canada story-telling to children has for some years been a special feature. Each Saturday morning from fifty to one hundred children assemble at the library in a room set apart for the purpose and called the "Children's Room." The ages of the children vary from six to fourteen years. At St. John, New Brunswick, story-telling has been continued now for three years. This year it has been found advisable to divide the children according to age and to hold two classes of half an hour each. The work has steadily grown in interest, and the demand for books of a less trivial type justify the work of the committee in charge. During the summer, when opportunity offers and a story-teller of note is a guest of the city, notice is given to the library, and it is often possible to have a special session.

### SPEND WISELY.

Cyrus H. K. Curtis, in a series of leading editorials in his Philadelphia Public Ledger, has been sounding a timely and impressive warning to American business men who are inclined to curtail their activities in the war period. He calls for courage in the business office which shall match that shown by our boys on the firing lines. He warns that a slackening of industrial effort will lead to a paralysis of the national strength. "Progress and not penuriousness," says Mr. Curtis, "courage and not cheese-paring, enterprise and energy rather than a too timid economy are the watchwords. Let us spend wisely, let us shun waste, let us get our money's worth. But let us remember that a dollar is like a bicycle — it stops bearing burdens when it stops rolling."

### MONKS AND THE SILKWORM.

(Family Herald.)

Many years ago monks stole furtively out of China with scanty luggage, but treasuring an ordinary bamboo cane. They set out on foot and made their way from China into Europe. In that cane were a multitude of the eggs of the silkworm moth, which the monks had stolen. They carried them to Constantinople.

When the time came for hatching of the eggs the monks tended the little caterpillars, fed them on the leaves of the mulberry, took their cocoons when they spun, and from them derived the first silk produced in Europe. Silk had for centuries before been a treasure of China, and its manufacture, like the insects which produced it, was jealously guarded. The monks, while on a missionary enterprise to China, had witnessed the whole process of silkworm-rearing and the manufacture of silk.

### LOOKING TO CHRISTIANITY.

The veteran Henry Watterson, in the Louisville Courier-Journal, writes as follows:

"Surely the future looks black enough, yet it holds a hope, a single hope. One, and one power only, can arrest the descent and save us. That is the Christian religion."

"Democracy is but a side issue. The paramount issue, underlying the issue of democracy, is the religion of Christ and Him crucified; the bed-rock of civilization; the source and resource of all that is worth having in the world that is, that gives promise in the world to come; not as an abstraction; not as a huddle of sects and factions; but as a mighty force and principle of being. The Word of God, delivered by the gentle Nazarene upon the hillsides of Judea, sanctified by the Cross of Calvary, has survived every assault. It is now arrayed upon land and sea to meet the deadliest of all assaults, Satan turned loose for one last, final struggle."

"The Kaiser boldly threw down the gage of battle — infidel Germany against the believing world — Kultur against Christianity — the gospel of hate against the gospel of love. Thus is he Satan personified — 'myself and God,' merely his way of proclaiming it — for his 'God' is Beelzebub, the angel of destruction, his creed the devil's own, his aim and end a hell on earth. Never did Crusader lift battle-axe in holier war against the Saracen than is waged by our soldiers of the Cross against the Germans. The issues are indeed identical."

"If the world is to be saved from destruction — physical no less than spiritual destruction — it will be saved alone by the Christian religion."

### NO DEDUCTION FOR ELOPEMENTS.

(From New York American's income tax questions.)

Question—I made \$12,000 last year. In October my wife wanted some clothes and I gave her a blank check, which she took and filled out for \$8,000, unknown to me, and then ran off to Europe with another man. Must I pay taxes on the entire \$12,000?

Answer—Yes.

### UNDER SUSPICION.

(New York Times.)

The soldier cannot loaf on the job. He cannot refuse to work because the government will not raise his pay, or because the fighting conditions are not to his liking. The shipyard worker gets his three meals a day; he has his regular hours for leisure, rest, and sleep; he is secure from any peril; and he earns four or five times as much as the soldier. All the patriotism the shipyard worker is asked to show is willingness to do his day's work. No one would indict shipyard workers as a class, but it is a lamentable fact that the patriotism of some of them is under suspicion, and justly.

### BETTER HABITS COMING.

(Hamilton Herald.)

The prospect is that daylight saving will be enforced throughout the North American continent this summer by international agreement. All clocks will probably have to be put ahead an hour, beginning in May. Of course our local sluggards who raised such a howl year before last against being compelled to get out of bed an hour earlier than usual will refuse to abide on a continent where such things are tolerated.

### RED CROSS TRACING CLOTH.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

In offices of large construction companies frequent changes and corrections of plans entail the rejection of great quantities of tracings. Engineers and draughtsmen, appreciating the quality and usefulness of this tracing cloth, gladly take home samples of such spoiled linen, have it soaked and washed, and use it for wiping and rubbing their automobiles. Now, however, comes the Red Cross organization with an appeal for the saving of all this waste tracing cloth for a still more delicate purpose; viz., conversion into surgical dressing material. Collectors are urged to send the cloth to large laundries in the cities, where it will be treated for removal of ink and sizing. Finally the Red Cross will utilize it in the form of excellent linen bandages.

### DEATH? WHAT IS IT?

(Los Angeles Times.)

Standing in the presence of the shadow that surrounds each closing life, a Los Angeles minister recently challenged all the sophistry of materialism and infidelity by declaring that philosophy, science, reason and religion all attest the immortality of the soul. It is good to reflect that in every night of doubt and ignorance through which this sad old world must pass the star of humanity's hope is forever shining and that the light of faith shines brightest through those gloomy hours when the heart is most in need of help. The truth is that it is much harder to doubt than to believe, because we do know something of life in a comparative sense, while we know absolutely nothing of death — and for that reason, perhaps, we are staggered by the very attempt to conceive of it. It is impossible to imagine a point at which force and intelligence cease to manifest as it is to conceive of the annihilation of matter or of an absolute vacuum in space.

### TURNING HISTORY UPSIDE DOWN IN ROUEN.

(Red Cross Magazine.)

In Rouen history seemed to have rolled backward. The city where the English burned Joan of Arc seemed almost as British to-day as Birmingham or Manchester. Acres of factory chimneys smoked busily beside the Seine; the river was full of British shipping—coal barges, transports, hospital ships, tramp steamers; and in the crowded city streets were thousands of Tommies in khaki, Scotties in kilts or scandalous "shorts" of the same loud-colored plaid as the kilt, Australians and New Zealanders, natty, public-school bred officers, Sikhs wearing khaki turbans, and scores of V. A. D.'s and other rose-cheeked British women in khaki or blue serge or the white muslin of the Red Cross nurse.

The Norman Conquest had been reversed, and the English had retaken Rouen. It was an impressive and noble example of the complete unity and power of the Allies.