

Public Opinion

GERMANY'S FUTURE. (Buffalo Commercial.)

Germany's future is scarcely a rosy one. Even should the national debt of about \$35,000,000,000 be repudiated, there remains the big sum which will be demanded in reparation of damage done in occupied territory.

THE BRITISH NAVY. (Commerce & Finance.)

The transportation of 21,500,000 soldiers, 85,000,000 tons of stores for her own armies and 24,000,000 tons for her Allies, and 2,000,000 animals has been made possible chiefly by the British navy. Its 2,500,000 tons displacement at the beginning of the war has grown to 6,500,000 tons. Its personnel has increased from 146,000 to 406,000 men. The organization of convoys for protection of ships from German submarines has been a most important part of its work. Since March, 1917, there have been 76,000 sailings with the loss of but a few hundred vessels. Of the soldiers transported, 4,391 were lost.

BRITISH NAVY WINNING THE WAR. (The Western British-American, Chicago.)

"British opinion is becoming acutely sensitive to the trend of the peace movement. This country and its Dominions have performed the lion's share of the work of winning the war. They cannot believe that this fact will be forgotten."

In these words, Edward Price Bell, London correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, tells his paper of one phase of overseas Peace sentiment which we will do well to heed. As the great struggle approaches its finale, and the Hun's doom is no longer in doubt, the pioneer champions of Liberty, who bore the brunt of the ghastly conflict, and whose valor and sacrifice made certain Prussia's defeat, are in danger of being slighted by their beneficiaries.

Uncle Sam's intervention hastened the end of the war beyond the shadow of a doubt. But the British Navy saved Civilization. The Yanks have worked military wonders on both sides of the Atlantic. But they were able to reach the firing line because Britannia paved the way for them with the blood of her sons, and because for over four long years, her Iron-clad defenders of the faith have been ceaselessly vigilant against a ruthless and remorseless foe.

The boss braggart of Christendom, William Randolph Hearst, appears in his Chicago papers this week with another windy eulogy in which he credits Columbia with winning the war. This is the sort of boastful bunk that disgusts intelligent Americans. It also misrepresents us to our Allies. The rank and file of our citizens have brains enough to understand that, while our belated entry into the war shortened it, the issue was decided by the British and French protectors of Right and Justice against whose bodies and souls German ferocity spent itself before we started.

When the Hun began to fight in 1914, his grand objective was not Paris or London, but New York and Chicago. What saved us from destruction and death, and our women from ravishment in those days of terrible crisis? The British Fleet! What made possible our present methodical preparation for war and the training and transport of our troops to the battle front? The British Fleet! What kept watch day and night over the sacred principles for which we gladly give our sons to duty—that may mean death and in comparison with which our dollars seem but dross? The British Fleet!

Let us muzzle with outspoken contempt fatheads like Hearst, who, at this solemn hour, rust into print with cheap blarney about our military prowess, and let us remember and celebrate with thankful hearts the second saviour of the world—the British Fleet. Let Americans teach their children that, but for the British Navy the goddess of Bedloe's Island, whose ever-shining torch has beaconed the way to happiness for millions, might have been yanked from her pedestal by bloody hands and her light put out forever.

"Getting down to brass tacks," is a famed American attitude. It means stripping realities to the bone, and stating with Abe Lincoln—Ben Franklin bluntness outstanding facts.

Here is the outstanding fact of the greatest war in history:

The British Fleet won it!

A POPULAR KING. (Montreal Gazette.)

A crowd of 20,000 persons waited in front of Buckingham Palace for hours until King George made his appearance, when the multitude gave vent to its enthusiasm in "God Save the King." The incident shows how the King is venerated by his subjects in the centre of Empire. The war has but served to intensify their devotion.

TALKING TO LABOR. (Saturday Evening Post.)

Time was within our journalistic recollection when employers assiduously preached that the interests of capital and labor are identical. Their writers and speakers went about keynoting that idea.

Then the Socialists came along preaching that labor's interest is inherently and inveterately hostile to capital's—as false as the other idea, but more plausible, because the incidental concrete facts lent color to it. There is now in both camps a pretty extensive atmosphere of mutual suspicion and truculence, which the Socialists can point to as a triumph, so far as it goes, for their idea.

Capital and labor contend over the division of their joint product. Left to its own will either would cheerfully put all four feet in the trough. What needs emphasizing (we think, is that the product is a joint one. According to our observation most of the economic talking that is specifically addressed to labor nowadays is done by Socialists or on a socialistic bias—talking, that is, which professes to discuss the general principles involved. It would be a poor case that could not make itself look more or less plausible in the absence of opposition.

THE INVENTIVE YANK. (Christian Science Monitor.)

If the German soldier remembers his Shakespeare, whom he apparently regards as a Teutonic genius born in England and compelled by that circumstance to write in English, he may have had, when he saw the "Yanks" in Argonne Forest unrolling chicken wire to make a bridge over the barbed variety, something of the feeling of Macbeth when he observed Birman Wood coming uphill. It was a painful surprise, all that barbed wire ingeniously entangled to stop the unkultured Americans, and then the unkultured Americans spreading their vulgar chicken wire across the top, and coming expeditiously over. Chicken wire does not bite, but it makes a serviceable bridge that takes the bite out of a barbed wire entanglement. The wonder is, being such a simple expedient, that nobody thought of it sooner. But perhaps that is the reason.

THE SHAPERS OF PUBLIC OPINION. (Editor and Publisher.)

A gentleman over in Jersey rises to remark that whereas some one in the past may have been correct when he said he cared not who wrote the nation's laws if he could write its songs, he would have to revise his ideas to-day and make it headlines instead of songs.

To prove his case he declares, which we do not believe is open to successful contradiction, that most persons who buy newspapers read the headlines and not the articles and get their ideas from the "heads" and not from the details.

Further, the gentleman marshals before us the headlines on a lot of New York newspapers on various news developments in one day.

The gentleman proves his case.

What he might also allege and not have to support with proof is that most persons who buy newspapers (and comparatively few persons do not) profess to doubt the truth of what they read in them yet quote them as authority for anything or everything.

Why is it?
And why is it that a copy reader through whose hands goes the news of the world, who edits the matter that is read by hundreds of thousands if not millions of persons, who can command the earnest attention of a larger audience than anyone else on earth, whose power is greater, far greater than appreciated, is paid but a beggarly sum, not half so much as the riveter commands to-day and in many cases not a third?

SHIPBUILDING. (Kingston Standard.)

The Dominion Government is wisely attending to shipbuilding. Ships are required now and will be more so after the war to carry Canada's produce all over the world.

ONTARIO'S SURPLUS. (Kingston Standard.)

Ontario has a surplus at the end of the fiscal year just closed. That is satisfactory, but it cannot be expected that war expenditure will cease when the war ends. Money will be required for many purposes as a sequence of the war.

FOCH'S IDEA. (Milwaukee Sentinel.)

"We do not understand Foch's strategy," complains the military critic of a German newspaper. And sometimes, in our artless way, we wonder if the famous marshal hasn't constructed his strategy purposely to produce that effect.

CZAR & KAISER. (Montreal Gazette.)

Czar Nicholas of Russia remained to face the terrible anger of his revolting subjects, and asked humane consideration for his wife and children only. Kaiser Wilhelm fled the country at the first sign of impending danger. The reputedly weak Emperor of the Russias played the nobler part in the extremity.

GERMANY'S FUTURE. (Toronto World.)

Germany has unquestionably great ability, and it all depends into what channel these national abilities are turned whether she can be received as a fellow-nation among the nations or whether she will continue the role of dictator in an attempt to impose her diabolical kultur on the rest of us. We trust that kultur will disappear with the kaiser and his gang of ruffians, and that the German republic will show the first fruits of repentance by accepting the terms of the Allies, and by that practical mark of contrition indicate her sincere desire to take her place in the brotherhood of nations with the humility and restitution that befits her sin.

HIDDEN FLOUR MILLING FIGURES. (Grain Growers' Guide.)

At the recent annual meetings of the shareholders of the Ogilvie Flour Milling Company, and of the shareholders of other big milling companies, immense profits were announced. But neither in the financial statements submitted at the meetings and afterwards published, nor in the addresses of the heads of the companies to the shareholders, reviewing the year's operations, is there anything about the number of barrels of flour made.

In view of the order-in-council, passed at Ottawa, restricting flour milling profits to 25 cents a barrel, are not the public entitled to this information? Is it not the duty of the Dominion Government to see to it that this information, about which the big milling companies are so shyly reticent, is set forth in open daylight?

AUSTRALIA'S SHARE. (Hamilton Spectator.)

Australia, out of a total population of five million souls, has had 58,890 killed in action, and 158,199 wounded. These figures afford some indication of the great part which has been taken by the island continent in the triumph of popular ideals, which appears all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the army of 336,000 men which Australia sent overseas was entirely on a volunteer basis. The record which the Australians established for dash and courage in the early days of the war has remained undimmed to the end. The exploits of the Australian navy, too, which made so useful a contribution to the cause in cleaning up the German outposts in the Pacific, as well as in sweeping the seas of enemy raiders, form an inspiring chapter in the great struggle against autocratic tyranny. The air service likewise has been of great merit.

The distance of Australia from the seat of conflict has rendered her effort exceptionally arduous, but all difficulties have been overcome in the most successful manner, and the supply of men and munitions has never been delayed. Australia, like all the other overseas Dominions, has well earned her place at the peace table. Britain has good cause to be proud of her sturdy sons, and will welcome their advice in the reconstitution of the world.