

Public Opinion

BOTH FIGHT AND PAY.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Some knowledge of the quality and temper of the men composing the expeditionary force under General Pershing may be obtained from the fact that they subscribed \$5,812,600 to the second Liberty Loan. This is simply another proof of their willingness to stake everything they possess on the cause in which they are enlisted.

CANADA'S DUTY.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The time has come now for some Canadian statesmen, and some pillars of finance, and defenders of established things, to go over the top with regard to Canada's future service in the war. With the sacrifice going on in Europe, it is time to put aside party politics and political opportunism and private profit-making out of the war in Canada. War is not a thing to be glorified, neither by volunteering nor by profiteering. It is a horror to be abolished from the world forever. The Military Service Act and the mobilization of all Canada's resources is needed to bring this nation abreast of its Allies, in the final years of battle against the monster unloosed upon the world by Prussian militarism.

WAR INSURANCE.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

It will be comforting to every soldier and the relative of every soldier to know that the government has so developed its war-insurance programme that it stands ready to begin its campaign to sell insurance among the soldiers.

Though this war may be more terrible than other wars, in many ways it is more humane. Advanced methods of preserving life are in vogue as well as advanced methods for taking it.

And now, for the first time, we have war insurance—a commodity that a soldier can buy in the knowledge that if he has to surrender his life for democracy, his loved ones are protected from the wolf at the door. He can buy as much as \$10,000 worth, if he desires.

The insurance scheme is one of the finest things among a host of fine things that have been accomplished since we declared war.

VICTORIES OF THE SPY.

(New York Times.)

At what time shall we give over the fiction that this is a time of peace, that these men are ordinary criminals violating the laws for profit or love of destruction, and meet the German army on the American front with the weapons which the laws of war put in our hands? By the laws of war the punishment for this kind of warfare is death. Not until we inflict it will spies and traitors take warning. The directing mind of these operations will not be daunted, for, whoever he is, he is a German officer and takes his chances; but the tools he hires will. The spy from Berlin will go on taking his chance, but the indigenous American traitor, the man who takes the German spy's money, will see things differently. He challenges the laws of war. Enforce them. He does not believe he runs that risk. Convince him.

A BIG WORK.

(Southern Lumberman.)

Amid the strain and uproar of war, people are likely to lose sight of some of the big things in the way of peace-time achievements. Among these is New York's completion of its \$140,000,000 Catskill aqueduct.

If ever there was a city that needed an improvement in the quality of its drinking water, it is New York. And now is the accepted time, in view of the soaring prices of other liquids. The new aqueduct is 120 miles long; it conducts water under the Hudson River through a siphon which at one point is 1,114 feet beneath the surface. Another tunnel far below the surface of the East River carries water to the people of Brooklyn. The work was begun twelve years ago and has been continued practically without cessation.

According to some authorities, the Catskill enterprise ranks next to the Panama Canal among the works of American engineers. The work involved the construction of tremendous dams and the destruction of whole villages and forests to provide a drainage shed free from contamination.

A PROPHECY.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

It is full time we began to provide for contingencies we cannot escape. With Uncle Sam for Receiver General, John Bull for Residuary Legatee—Signor Macaroni and our dear Johnny Crapaud for Expert Accountants and reliable Notaries Public to draw up the documents and witness the proceeding—we shall have no more invisible diplomacy, no more international hocus-pocus—no scrap-of-paper slips of tongue or sleights of hands—no Schleswig-Holstein conundrums, nor Balkan problems—but a fair divide—Alsace-Lorraine back to France, the Trentino to Italy—the just collection and distribution of the indemnities to Belgium and Serbia—Home Rule for Ireland and Poland free—presaging if not the millennium a fore-taste of that blessed time promised us by the Prophet Isaiah in Holy Writ when "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard lie down with the kid."

WHAT BRITAIN DOES.

(Southern Lumberman.)

Many changes and improvements have been made in Bagdad and vicinity since the capture of that city by the British forces last March. The river banks have been repaired; the River Euphrates has been made navigable and floods prevented for the first time in centuries; two railroads have been built from the mouth of the Tigris River and are being extended far north of Bagdad. A swamp of forty-eight square miles has been reclaimed and converted into wheat fields, gardens and dairy and poultry farms by farmers from India who supply to British forces and who are preparing to export food to England.

Bagdad, in Asiatic Turkey, was the capital of the "vilayet" or province of Bagdad. The city is situated on the Tigris River, some distance above the junction of the Euphrates. Bagdad was founded in the year 763.

MOBILIZING THE CLINGING VINES.

(Southern Lumberman.)

"I never saw so many clinging vines in all my life," observed a lumberman who had come home to luncheon after spending a strenuous morning in an effort to sell liberty bonds to women in their homes. His territory comprised the residences of the well-to-do. He continued:

"Nearly all the ladies said that they never have even fifty cents except what their husbands give them."

"Well, that ought to tickle you nearly to death," remarked his wife, one of the up-to-date type, who demands—and receives—a definite allowance. "You have always posed as a great admirer of clinging vines."

"Oh, I was pleased, of course," hastily responded the man. But he did not look it, and he took pains to change the subject at once.

COMPETITION.

(New Orleans Item.)

In commenting upon the war-time efficiency of the railroads of the United States, President Underwood, of the Erie Railroad, attributes their splendid showing largely to the elimination of destructive and expansive competition which existed in the railroad world prior to the war, and which, he says, was forced on them by laws rather than economics. The laws still exist, but by common consent of the Government, the public and the railroads, they are being ignored. Continuing, Mr. Underwood says: "Competition is not the life of trade. The fellow who said that played a hard joke on the world, which it has been slow to find out. On the contrary, competition is wasteful, if not actually destructive." The mercantile world, too, is beginning to realize that many of its practices, done in the name of competition and for the laudable and legitimate purpose of gaining trade, have not increased trade in the aggregate, while they have been a source of great expense which, in the end, had to be added to the prices charged the consumer. These practices were not discontinued prior to the war because no one merchant felt like assuming the responsibility of taking the lead. Under the direction of the Federal Economy War Board merchants are now co-operating in ridding themselves of many so-called competitive practices extravagant to themselves and of no benefit to the public.

CONFIDENCE IN CRERAR.

(Grain Growers' Guide.)

Hon. T. A. Crerar is the most forceful and aggressive minister of agriculture who has been on the job at Ottawa for many a year. Some much needed reforms in that department may be looked for with confidence. The department of agriculture has only recently been awakening to the agricultural needs of Canada.

WAR TIME STATEMENTS.

(Wall Street Journal.)

A feature in companies' reports is the tendency to cloud earnings by general statements, and in balance sheets to merge items into general accounts. This is particularly the case with companies that have government contracts, or supply material to the allies. The attitude is well displayed in statements of British steamship companies. They have become studies in vagueness. To publish details would give the enemy an opportunity to gauge ship losses and to estimate the financial strength of the allied shipping and preparation for peace time competition.

A TERRIBLE EXAMPLE.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

On a tract of land in Oklahoma, allotted to Jackson Barnett, a Creek Indian, and on which it is not recorded that he ever did a stroke of work, oil was, some time ago, discovered. Jackson's income is now said to be \$50,000 a month from oil royalties. He has a cabin, erected for him by the superintendent of the Five Tribes, but he prefers to live in the open. At night he wraps himself in a blanket and sleeps on the porch. His property is now said to be worth \$800,000. He does nothing through the livelong day but sit around. Yet, he is not entirely worthless. He bought a block of Liberty bonds, two weeks ago, and single taxers are using him as a terrible example.

THE NEGRO IN THE WAR.

(Greenville, S.C., News.)

The course of the Negro race has been highly creditable in this war. Upon barren soil fell the seeds of sedition and insurrection disseminated by German agents and pro-German newspapers in an attempt to incite the Negroes to an uprising against the United States. So far as we have observed, Negro leaders have been conspicuously free from treasonable utterances. Drafted Negroes have gone to the front as cheerfully as any other set of men and, if history repeats itself, they will fight with signal bravery. The patriotism of these people will not be forgotten and should ever be kept in mind and taken into account for full credit in the adjustment of racial problems.

THE COLORS OF THE FLAG.

(Major Canon Scott, Chaplain, 1st Canadian Overseas Division.)

What is the blue on our flag, boys?
The waves of the boundless sea,
Where our vessels ride in their tameless pride
And the feet of the winds are free;
From the sun and smiles of the coral isles
To the ice of the South and North,
With dauntless tread through tempests dread,
The guardian ships go forth.

What is the white on our flag, boys?
The honor of our land,
Which burns in our sight like a beacon light
And stands while the hills shall stand;
Yea, dearer than fame is our land's great name,
And we fight, wherever we be,
For the mothers and wives that pray for the lives
Of the brave hearts over the sea.

What is the red on our flag, boys?
The blood of our heroes slain,
On the burning sands in the wild waste lands,
And the froth of the purple main.
And it cries to God from the crimsoned sod
And the crest of the waves outrolled
That He send us men to fight again
As our fathers fought of old.

We'll stand by the dear old flag, boys,
Whatever be said or done,
Though the shots come fast as we face the blast,
And the foe be ten to one;
Though our only reward be the thrust of a sword
And a bullet in heart or brain,
What matters one gone, if the flag float on,
And Britain be lord of the main?