

Public Opinion

WHERE WRONG IS RIGHT.

(Kingston Standard.)

Professor Wrong says that patronage is wrong. Two wrongs don't make a right.

DEMOCRACY'S WAR AIM.

(New Age, London.)

The liberalization of Germany is our only security for democracy; in other words, for our freedom to achieve economic emancipation.

MASCULINE MONOPOLIES.

(Toronto Globe.)

Nova Scotia is the latest Province to enfranchise the women. New Brunswick, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island are the only masculine monopolies left.

GROW MORE GRAIN.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

In a message sent, the other day, to the Grain Growers Association of Saskatchewan, the Hon. C. Dunning, the Director of Production, at Ottawa, said that for every seven acres cropped last year, ten were needed this year, if the Allies were to be fed. Canada will take note of this statement, and will no doubt see to it that the demand is met.

MANY GREAT MEN DIE YOUNG.

The question is often asked, what is meant by "the prime of life." It is difficult to say; people differ so much. Most great men have died comparatively young. Alexander the Great died at thirty-two, having conquered practically the whole world of his day; Julius Caesar was dead at fifty-five. Napoleon died at fifty-two, Oliver Cromwell at fifty-nine, Shakespeare at fifty-two, Charles Dickens at fifty-eight. Nearly all the men who made the French Revolution were dead before they were fifty; many of them before they were forty. Robespierre was only thirty-six when he died. Desmoulins thirty-four, Danton thirty-five, and Mirabeau forty-two.

CO-OPERATION OR OBSTRUCTION?

(New York World.)

This war is the most tremendous experiment in co-operation that the world has ever known. The success of democracy depends not only upon the co-operation of the people of each country that is engaged but upon the co-operation of the nations themselves through their governments. We are all going to win together or lose together, regardless of class or age or sex or circumstance. The assurance of victory will depend wholly upon the effectiveness of this teamwork, in which every individual must play his part, whether he be soldier or mechanic, farmer or capitalist, manufacturer or Senator. President Wilson has compressed the issue into seven words: "Will you co-operate or will you obstruct?" Therein lies the fate of civilization.

A STOCK THAT ALWAYS GOES UP.

(New York Sun.)

The suggestion has been made that Pessimism preferred and Pessimism common, two well-seasoned insecurities listed on all public and many private exchanges, have not shared the general decline in prices.

We believe this is true. In casting about for the reasons of this peculiarity we are struck by several circumstances.

Both Pessimism preferred and Pessimism common are widely held by persons who acquired them as investments, and consequently no ordinary short sales can depress them very much. Those objectionable bears, who are constantly parting with Pessimism that they never had anyway, in the hope of getting their gloom at a lower price, can do little with the stock. It does not react to their efforts, for there are more buyers of gloom constantly coming into the market, and their acquisitions keep the price going up an eighth of a point an hour. People who speculatively take a little Pessimism on*margin wake up in the morning to find themselves rich and sorrowful.

Pessimism is a bull stock. It pays splendid dividends in tears quarterly, and cuts a melon whenever it strikes a new lode of German rumor. We never expect to see the price go down as long as it is so widely held or as long as German inexhaustibility in lies continues.

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR.

(New York Herald.)

What the United States is fighting for is a peace of the peoples of Europe which they can underwrite and guarantee. The only obstacle to such a peace is the military party in Germany, and the war must go on until that obstacle is overcome.

CAN'T STOP IT.

(Los Angeles Times.)

National prohibition gains rapidly. Six States have ratified the constitutional amendment. Of these Maryland and Kentucky have hitherto been wet. Montana and Texas—hitherto wet—are expected to shortly join the dries, and it is not impossible that by the end of this year twelve States will have ratified.

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS.

(Life Insurance Independent.)

"Remember, you must always pay the price of success in intelligent work—close application to business—for permanent success; that it is hard when you go at it easy, but easy when you go at it hard; that success is not a bequest, but a conquest; that it is not doing the thing you like to do, but liking the thing you have to do, that makes life blessed."

SUCCESS RECIPE.

(From the Three Partners.)

Keep your head cool, your feet warm, your mind busy. Don't worry over trifles. Plan your work ahead, then stick to it, rain or shine. Don't waste sympathy on yourself. If you are a gem someone will find you. Don't whine—tell people you are a failure and they will believe you. Talk and act like a winner, and in time you will become one.

OUR BIG BROTHERS.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The gift from Carnegie Corporation to McGill University, like the generous giving of supplies, personal aid and money to devastated Halifax from the United States, is another expression of warm-hearted America's regard for Canada in the war. Canada has taken a hard grueling in the three and a half years since 1914, and the men of McGill University have measured up with the best. By the time it is over, the common sacrifices of the men of North America should have made the United States a big brother to Canada in every way.

CLOUDS AND LININGS.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

Holiday feasts, like Christmas and New Year, have a dark spot for little boys — the pre-bedtime spoonful of castor oil. This year they have reason to rejoice that orders for the oil are difficult to fill. They can thank the aviators. The pharmaceutical grade of this oil, known by makers as "cold drawn," is extensively used to oil machinery of airplanes. About 75 per cent of output is used for this purpose. India and Java are principal producers of the castor bean. Therefore, the submarine has also played its part in lessening the supply. The beans grow wild in Brazil and Venezuela, and high prices offered will draw them where they are needed to oil the Liberty motors.

THEN AND NOW.

(Boston News Bureau.)

George Washington fought his fight against a typical German,—on the English throne but non-English in heart as well as tongue. That Teuton exponent of kingly autocracy was as stupid as stubborn. The one against whom Woodrow Wilson leads us is merely a very great deal more crafty and potent.

Against him we need, beside all the countermeasures of our material resources, at least two of the qualities of Washington,—endurance and sacrifice. We must not be daunted by dark days or by slowness of success or by weariness; and, if need be, we must be ready for any requisite portion of what, compared with Washington's, can be but relative privation. We must have, at need, something of the Valley Forge spirit.

NO ROOM FOR LOAFERS.

"Every city and town should make up its mind," says the Des Moines (Iowa) Capital, "to neither endure nor submit to loafers." And it adds: "Especially attention should be given to the pool-hall loafers, the boys of eighteen and nineteen. No young man has a right to be a loafer in any year, but he will have no right whatever this year." In Maryland and some other of the States this view has taken root, even to the extent of driving those who have been doing a fraction of their part into the performance of a full day's work. Indeed idleness will not be excused this year.

FARM-TO-TABLE SERVICE.

(Indianapolis News.)

The persistence of the Post Office Department in its attempt to bring farmer and consumer closer together ought ultimately to be rewarded. Since the establishment of the parcel post constant efforts have been made to bring the two into a more profitable relationship. The newest plant affecting this district is for a motor truck service between Indianapolis to Shelbyville, Tenn., passing through Columbus, Seymour, New Albany, Louisville, Cave City, Ky., and Nashville.

THE DIGNITY OF FARMING.

(Montgomery, Ala., Times.)

This war has done one thing; it has made farming one of the most dignified callings a man can engage in. There was a time when many looked on the cultivator of the soil as "a mere hayseed," not worthy of being considered seriously in the economics of the nation, but that day has passed. To-day everybody is appealing to the farmer to come to the rescue of the nation by helping to produce something to eat so that we can win the war. The day is not far distant when the "man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before" will be looked up to as one of the princes of the land.

UNLUCKY BAGDAD.

(Detroit Free Press.)

A writer in Pearson's tells us that Bagdad, where the British are now firmly established, has well earned its reputation of the world's unluckiest city. Not a square inch of the soil on which it stands but has been soaked with the blood of its citizens.

When the Mongols, under their terrible Chief Hulagu, took the city in 1258, 1,000,000 of its inhabitants were put to death. Worse still, Hulagu ruined the whole system of irrigation canals which made Mesopotamia perhaps the richest country in the world, "thereby destroying the work of 300 generations in as many hours."

In 1393 Timur the Tartar sacked the city. He killed all its inhabitants, "save only the holy men," and 90,000 skulls were piled up in pyramids before the walls.

The Persians under Shan Abbas, captured Bagdad in 1623, after a desperate resistance, and in revenge he ordered 500 of the principal citizens to be tortured to death in public, the executions lasting over an entire week. Three hundred others were executed by hanging them head downward in the city's 300 wells, thereby poisoning the water supply.

WHEN THERE WAS NO SUGAR.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

Think of it, girls! In Rome 2,000 years ago there was not a single candy store. Not even the most attentive young man could offer to his lady love a box of lollipops, for such things were unheard of.

Sugar in those days was known in Europe only in the form of honey, which was considered a great luxury, obtainable only by the well-to-do. The high price it brought offered much encouragement to bee keeping, which was then a much more important and extensive industry, especially in Asia Minor than it is to-day. Boats loaded with hives floated along the Nile, the bees flying ashore to gather nectar from flowers on the banks.

It is thought likely, however, that sugar derived from cane was known in China and India as long ago as 4,000 B. C. The sugar cane was originally native to those countries, and in the early middle ages cane sugar was brought to Europe by traders from the Indies. Europeans called it "honey made from reeds."

In 1747 a Berlin chemist discovered that the same kind of sugar could be obtained from beets, and since then the percentage of sugar has been increased so considerably by selective breeding of the vegetables that nowadays a ton of it is derived from nine tons of the roots.

The average person in this country consumes two-thirds of his own weight of sugar in a year.