

"A Little Nonsense Now and From War to Work, in England Then"

By HERBERT N. CASSON.

"Agnes married a self-made man, didn't she?"
"Yes, but she has compelled him to make extensive alterations."—Boston Transcript.

The man in the restaurant regarded with an eye of suspicion the small yellow cube the waiter had brought him. "I take thee," he murmured, "for butter or worse."—London Opinion.

Colonel (in Chaparral)—George, what is your girl like? Is she brunette or blonde or—? Rastus—Well, Cuhnel, ah b'lieve she's, what you might call a silhouette.

Shortly after some new recruits had reached camp, relates a contributor to Judge, the guard on post No. 10 saw some one in uniform approaching and challenged: "Halt, who is there?" He was surprised to hear a shaky voice reply, "Olie Olson, from Mipn'-ap'lis."

"I am twenty-five years old," announced a woman of forty-six at tea, "And I am twenty-six," said a woman of forty. Then, turning to a girl who stood near by, she asked, "How old are you, Ethel?" "Oh," replied Ethel, "according to the present reckoning, I'm not born yet."—From "A Feast of Fun," by Moncur Sime.

Two old scotsmen sat by the roadside, talking and puffing away merrily at their pipes.
"There's no muckle pleasure in smokin' Sandy," said Donald.

"Hoo dae ye mak' that ott?" questioned Sandy.
"Weel," said Donald, "ye see, if ye're smokin' yer ain bacca ye're thinkin' o' the awfu' expense, an' if ye're smokin' some ither body's, yer pipe's rammt' sae tight it winna draw."

A young ducky in the South, who was of very limited means, took unto himself a wife, relates Harper's. Upon the conclusion of the marriage ceremony he proffered to the minister three twenty-five cent pieces. "Dese is about all I's got, parson," said he, regretfully. Then, observing a disappointed look on the face of the clergyman, he added, hastily, "But ef we has any chillun, we's goin' to send 'em to your Sunday school."

A recruiting officer in Germany determined that no prospective soldier should elude him, relates Everybody's. One man said he was too old, but the officer replied: "Von Hindenburg is seventy-two and he's in. Get a gun." Another man with one arm came up to claim exemption and the officer said: "The Kaiser's in. Get a gun." Finally a woman brought her half-witted son, and the officer said: "No matter; the Crown Prince is in. Get a gun."

A negro soldier invalided home from France met a recruit of his own race. They naturally talked of "de wah." "What is dis yer ovah de top?" enquired the recruit. The veteran smiled. "Ovah the top? Man, don't tell me you-all don't know what dat yere is," answered the wounded one. "No," said the recruit, "Ah swear Ah don't know what it am." "Well," said the veteran, "Ah can explain it in very few words. Ovah de top am de same thing as sayin' good mawn-in', Lawd!"

A pawky old gentleman of Scottish persuasion, hearing rumors of the coming of a bachelor tax, hied him to a matrimonial agency, where a highly cultured dame attended to his wants.

"I am after a wife," began the Scotsman, "a weel eddicated wuman, not ower big. What ha ye on your books?"

"Let me see, sir," replied Mrs. Cupid, turning over the leaves of an impressive looking ledger. "I have so many first-class eligibles. Ah, here is a really superior lady on the sunny side of forty, good looking, domesticated, musical and speaks three tongues."

"Three tongues, did ye say, mem? Oh, may I be guarded! Which is the nearest way out?"

(Written for the Boston News Bureau from London.)

English business men are now perceiving very clearly that the task of a war is divided naturally into two parts:

- (1) Destruction.
- (2) Reconstruction.

The first part of the task is to beat the enemy—to win the war.

The second part is to pay off the war debt and to restore the broken structure of civilization.

The first part is being done by soldiers, who are given unlimited time, money and men; and the second part is to be done by business men, whose time, money and men will be limited in many ways.

If we lose the first part of the war, the result is a German conquest; and if we lose the second part of the war, the result is bankruptcy.

To avoid the first, the government is giving a free hand to the army and navy—everything they ask for, they get. And to avoid the second, the government must give a free hand to the business men of the nation.

At present, business is being run as a mere producing and distributing department of the government; and business men are quite willing that this should be so.

But they are now asserting that after the war this situation should be reversed and that government shall be run as a mere department of business, at least until the task of reconstruction is finished.

Otherwise it will be impossible to pay the war debt and to restore the reserves of capital.

For the past four years, business has deferred to government. It has played second fiddle in everything. It has sacrificed its profits, its property, its rights—anything to help win the war.

Never again can British capitalists be called unpatriotic. They are willing to continue to sacrifice their businesses until Germany surrenders, but not longer. Then the second part of the task begins and the capitalists must take control.

The government, in its turn, must then defer to business for a while. It must sacrifice its rights and privileges, to enable the business men to save the nation from bankruptcy.

Recently Bonar Law asked Parliament for \$3,500,000,000. He got it. He got it in one hour; which makes a world record in money-getting. It was the largest sum ever asked for at a single sitting of the House of Commons, and it was given as quickly as though it were 30 cents.

So, whatever goes up has got to come down—whatever is borrowed has got to be paid. Taxes come out of earnings, not vice versa, as some socialists imagine.

Already the War Bond sales have reached the \$5,000,000,000 mark; and the nation's creditors now number over 17,000,000 people. So, as soon as we have disposed of our enemies, we shall have our creditors to deal with.

Happily, the government is to-day composed mainly of business men. There will not need to be any capitalistic revolution. The capitalists and labor leaders, both, are already in the high seats that were formerly filled by politicians.

Just as the flimsy city government of Dayton, Ohio, fell to pieces at the time of the great flood, and the city had to be taken in hand by Patterson, the cash register capitalist, so the flimsy national government of England fell to pieces at the first shock of war, and the task of leadership had to be taken in hand by the capitalists and labor leaders.

The wastes and inefficiencies of the war, thus far, have not been due to the leaders of the government. They have been due to the defective structure of government itself.

The capitalists and labor leaders had no time to reconstruct government. They had to take it as they found it.

But after the war, there will be less urgency. There will be time to breathe—time to reconstruct the cumbrous departments of the government.

Practically all English business men now agree that there cannot be any expansion of trade and commerce unless there is freedom to act. There must be free trade in a new and wider sense, if the war debt is to be paid off.

The keynote of British progress, after the war, will be—larger units of business and smaller units of government. Without production there can be no profit; and without profit there can be no solvency.

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