

## Public Opinion

### PRIZES FOR TEXTBOOKS.

The government of Peru has offered a prize of \$500 for the best textbook teaching temperance for use in the public schools of the country. Intemperance has become a serious problem in the republic, and it is hoped that the introduction of the teaching of temperance in the schools will have salutary effects. The texts submitted, which must be in the Spanish language, will be passed on by a jury composed of the director of public instruction, the director of the temperance society, and one teacher from the Lima public schools.

### THE FRENCH SOLDIER.

(Christian Science Monitor).

One of the most striking characteristics of the French soldier, remarks a recent writer, is the way he has of getting to work again at his trade as soon as he gets home, even if it is only for a few days' leave. Thus, the farmer will pick up his daily work at his little farm almost at the hour he arrives, and the cobbler will get him to his last, eager to see how many of his old customers he may serve during his stay at home. A famous aviator, on four days' leave, donned his white apron, just as soon as ever he could—he was a restaurant keeper—and was glad to spend his short holiday serving the little coterie of guests whom his wife had kept together.

### A TRIBUTE FROM ACROSS THE LINE.

(Buffalo Commercial).

Again it is our friends and allies from across the northern border who have smashed the German line. Lens again is the centre of the fighting on the western front, and the Canadians have taken the dominating Hill 70 by storm and are within the beleaguered French city at last, driving out the invader. We cannot but take a personal pride in the valor and achievements of our brothers from Canada. Many of our own sons fight shoulder to shoulder with them. All typify the spirit of America. Where honor calls, they are the first to respond. The post of danger and the test of skill are theirs by choice.

### CLEVELAND'S BACKBONE.

(World's Work).

In the summer of 1884 James J. Hill had been sizing up the political situation in his part of the country. Mr. Cleveland's name was in the air. Nobody knew very much about him. Mr. Hill went to New York and talked with Mr. Tilden, whom he knew well. They had great esteem for each other. "What about this man Cleveland?" was the question Mr. Hill had to ask. "He is all right," said Mr. Tilden. "He is absolutely honest, is not afraid of anything." "But has he backbone?" "Backbone! He has so much that it makes his stomach stick out in front."

### PLACING TITLES ON A BUSINESS BASIS.

(Toronto Saturday Night).

A lively line of criticism has been launched in the House of Lords over the alleged scandals in connection with the distribution of birthday honors. It was time. In democratic Canada, at least, this birthday honor business has about played out, and we all pretty well agree with the Earl of Selborne, who moved that hereafter the public be given particulars as to why honors are bestowed and also the cash price, if any. In England it has become a regular habit to "honor" those who contribute largely to party funds, but at the same time Baron Beresford complains that the money changing hands too often goes into the pockets of those offering the "honors" for sale. If we are to have honors, why not place them on an established cash basis, so much for a plain knighthood, so much for a knighthood with frills, so much for a baronet, and so on up the list. There would then be no further deception. All would be out in the open and plain sailing. Under this system, the millionaire who had accumulated his pile would simply size up the honor he desired and ask the latest quotation. He might get a discount for cash in advance or arrange to pay the net price when the goods were delivered. As a commercial nation, with huge bills to meet, the British people should see the possibilities of opening up a first-class trade in titles, particularly for export.

### CANADA'S DUTY.

(Nelson Daily News).

Canada has 80,000 soldiers on the firing line. This is one per cent of the population. If the other entente nations were represented in the same proportion Great Britain would have but 450,000 men on the firing line; France, 400,000; Italy, 270,000. Yet some wail that "Canada has done enough" and should cease to send men to the front.

### PREDICTIONS.

(Southern Lumberman).

Whether or not Mr. Gerard is a prophet, will be known before long. Here are some of the things which he says won't happen:

"The German nation is not one which makes revolutions. There will be scattered riots in the country but no simultaneous rising of the whole people. The officers of the army are all of one class—and of a class devoted to the ideals of autocracy."

"Nor should anybody believe that Germany will break under starvation. There is far greater danger of the starvation of our allies than of the starvation of Germany. Every available inch of ground in Germany is cultivated by the aid of the old men, the boys and the women and the 2,000,000 prisoners of war."

Mr. Gerard declares that Americans do not grasp either the magnitude or the importance of the war.

### THE STRAITS OF DOVER.

(Christian Science Monitor).

The Strait of Dover, the narrow sea which separates England from France, is, perhaps, one of the best-known pieces of water in the world. For Englishmen, all through the centuries, it has ever appeared to epitomize the island character of their country, and has been ever regarded by them as one of their great bulwarks of defence. The silver streak which runs between the Pas-de-Calais and the coast of Kent has, indeed, always been the obstacle of obstacles to the invader. It was to cross this barrier that Julius Caesar prepared his long-beaked ships, some fifty years or so before the Christian era; that William the Norman got together his great fleet of flat-bottomed boats eleven hundred years afterwards; that Philip of Spain prepared his Armada in the Sixteenth Century; and that Napoleon, some two hundred years later still, assembled his fleet of specially prepared ships at Boulogne. "Let me be master of the Channel for six hours, and we are masters of the world," he declared to his staff, as they contemplated the great army encamped on the heights above the town; but, as all the world knows, of course, the six hours never came.

### CLIQUE RULES PRUSSIA.

(American Review of Reviews).

The executive government of Prussia is wholly in the hands of the King, whose council of ministers is appointed by royal decree. The Prussian law-making body has two chambers, the upper one, of which is made up of royal princes, territorial nobility, and a number of magnates named by the King, with a few burgomasters of large cities. The lower house, which has 413 members, is elected by the great body of Prussian citizens above the age of twenty-five, and the now famous three-class system. Those who pay the highest taxes to the total extent of one-third of all the taxes paid, constitute the first class and exercise one-third of the electoral power. Those whose taxes in the aggregate constitute a second amount equal to a third of the whole, form the voters of the second class, and they in turn have a third of the voting power. All the rest of the citizens who pay taxes constitute the third class. How this works out in practical effect we have more than once explained in this Review when alluding to German politics. The first and second classes, made up of the large taxpayers and constituting perhaps 15 per cent of the entire number of voters, have twice as much political power as the remaining 5 per cent of the voters. Thus, as we have previously stated, a voter of the first class in Berlin has fifty times as much political power as a voter of the third class. In the Essen district, where the Krupp works are located, it is within bounds to say that one voter of the first class has as much voting power as fifty thousand voters of the third class.

### UNCLE SAM TESTS WATCHES.

(Buffalo Commercial).

If you buy an expensive timepiece Uncle Sam will see that you are not imposed on, in the event you consider a fee of \$5 not too much to expend for his services. On Tuesday, April 10th, the watch testing period began at the bureau of standards in Washington. There are four of these tests conducted every year, the one to follow beginning on the second Tuesday in August. Watches may be submitted by manufacturer, retailer or individual owner. The test lasts 54 days.

### THE FRENCH POILU.

The French poilu, sketches a correspondent, is compounded of equal parts of weariness, good humor, and dirt. His coat is always buttoned wrong and his fingernails are always torn around their grimy edges. He wears a moustache and the Croix de Guerre; there is no exception to this rule. He lives on bad chocolate, worse bread, and still worse wine. He has two wants: A letter from home and a Pickelhaube. He is always torn between two conflicting sentiments: A bas les Boches, and A bas la guerre. He is war's wonder as well as war's lesson.

### PATRIOTISM AND SUGAR PROFITS.

(New York World).

What possible excuse is there for the exorbitant prices of sugar? There is no present shortage of the refined product of raw sugar. According to a statement by Herbert C. Hoover, the world's supply of sugar for the current year will be in excess of that of last year and only slightly below the average production of 18,712,997 tons for a period of five years prior to the war. In Cuba, which formerly supplied the United States with 43.1 per cent of its sugar and now furnishes 53.6 per cent, the yield and surplus are normal. Both the cane and beet sugar crops of the United States with 43.1 per cent of its sugar and ditions in Hawaii and Porto Rico, where in each instance production has increased.

Why, then, must consumers pay excessive prices both for sugar and for prepared fruits and canned goods in which it is an ingredient?

The swollen profits of the sugar companies give the answer. The prices are war prices only in the sense that they are based on the manufacturer's and grower's opportunity and the consumer's necessity created by the war. They are prices fixed by greed and are wholly without the justification of increased cost of production, as is clearly shown by the \$50,000,000 gain made by raw sugar companies in one year.

In fine, the reason sugar is dear is that sugar companies are paying extra dividends. The thriving condition of the industry is its own sufficient commentary on the patriotism of its owners in taking advantage of a national crisis to put up the price of a national necessity.

### OUR HOMEMADE CAMOUFLAGE.

(Minneapolis Tribune).

When the armies abroad hide a gun under green boughs, or paint a ship to look like playing waters, or cover a road with painted canvas to make it resemble an unbroken forest, or do anything of that kind to deceive the enemy, they call it camouflage.

We have our camouflage in this country, too, and it is being used long in advance of the firing of American guns.

We have the man who paints his disloyalty with words tending to make it appeal like loyalty.

We have the drafted man—mighty few of him, thanks be—who eats soap or goes hungry to make his wellness look like illness.

We have the profiteer who hides his gluttony for gain behind a sonorous warning that government food control will undermine democracy.

We have the politician who pretends upon being alert to the saving of his country when in truth his first thought is to save his job or to do something for his party at the expense of the opposing party.

We have the man who pretends to believe that he who serves his country on farm or in factory serves it as bravely and well as he who carries a gun to the trenches.

We have the party which prates loudly of liberty and the rights of the people while in the act of adopting resolutions that gladden the heart of the kaiseristas.

We have our men in high places wearing the livery of statesmanship, but clad beneath with the garb of mediocrity.

All in all, camouflage has quite a vogue over on this side of the ocean, but it is for the most part a thin veneer that peels off under the light of pitiless publicity.