

Public Opinion

THE TYPICAL BULLY.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

Germany never showed mercy, but she does not, therefore, hesitate to implore it.

A DELICATE TASK.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

By refusing to congratulate the Allies and then passing a resolution of satisfaction at the happy termination of the war, the Spanish Chamber of Deputies seems to have achieved the delicate task of congratulating everybody concerned.

A WISE DECISION.

(Toronto News.)

Secretary Lansing warns the Germans that their habit of appealing to the United States Government begins to grow tiresome. The President understands and resents the German assumption that he is removed from the Entente, that he is a sort of intermediary moral guide and instructor to Great Britain, France and Italy. Dr. Solf and his successors should appeal directly to the Versailles Conference, which continues in being until the terms of the armistice are carried out.

THE UNSIGHTLY BILLBOARD.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Los Angeles, since June 1 of the present year, has removed 340 billboards, and it is the opinion, and the hope, of those entrusted with the enforcement of the law that fully six miles of signs, objected to by the public, will soon have been eliminated. Los Angeles is constantly doing something that adds to its attractiveness as a place of residence and business.

FIRE PROOF MATCH.

(Manchester Policy Holder.)

A new match recently appeared on the market in France (where, of course, matches are a government monopoly) which, when struck, resolutely refused to burn the wood of the match. It the end an enquiry was instituted, and then it was discovered that the match stalks were made from wood used in the construction of army huts which had been submitted to a special fire proofing process! We understand the fire insurance companies alone can see any humour in the incident.

PROSPERITY OR DEPRESSION.

(Medicine Hat News.)

Peace and prosperity usually go together, but not always. Industry, powerfully stimulated by war, may collapse after the coming of peace—if measures are not taken to provide against such a possibility.

Peace is eagerly desired by Canadians; for we are a peace-loving people. But we make a great mistake if we imagine that peace necessarily implies a continuance of the existing prosperity.

After the dawn of peace, continued prosperity will be our portion in proportion as we make it possible through such measures as the Victory Loan. Let the advances to industry suddenly cease, and the wheels of industry would just as suddenly slow down.

HOHENZOLLERN'S PUNISHMENT.

(New York Times.)

Time without limit, unending time spent in torment without any respite, ceaseless, hopeless, that is the punishment appropriate to the crimes of Wilhelm of Hohenzollern, for sins altogether inexpiable, sins that appall, that outrun experience and overpass the powers of imagination. Leave him as he is, that is the worst the world can wish him. This man felt himself to be the greatest on earth, he is now the meanest. He has come down from his high place where he dreamed of extending over all nations the supreme power he wielded over one. He has come down to a condition from which the wretchedest would flee in horror. Is he not in a way of punishment which the most inexorable would hold to be fitting and adequate? Yet some men say there is no God!

HARDLY RESPECTABLE.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

The marriage of the Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, fixed for November, has been postponed until February. It is understood that the lady's parents have begun to entertain doubts concerning the respectability of the bridegroom's family connections.

CANADA'S HOMECOMING.

(Montreal Gazette.)

"Weary with work of destruction, we long for the time when we shall be homeward bound to take up again with a clearer conception of its responsibilities, our duty as citizens of the fairest land in all the world, our own beloved Canada." This extract from the message of Sir Arthur Currie to the acting Premier, Sir Thomas White, is convincing proof that General Currie, a good soldier, is a good Canadian, too, and also suggests that when he and his men come home they will resume their civil tasks with the earnestness that has characterized their endeavors in the field of war. The prospects are eminently satisfactory.

THE BRITISH MONOCLE.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The story about Admiral Wemyss fixing his monocle in his eye and coldly remarking to the German naval delegate that the Teuton fleet had only to emerge from shelter in order to have been licked, goes altogether too far. The true story, we will eventually find, is that the British admiral merely adjusted his monocle and transfixed the unfortunate Teuton, who, without doubt, began to look around for a knothole or anything of a similar size into which to retreat. Any sailor, or civilian either, who can face the spine-chilling survey of a monocle as worn by a real Britisher and retain his poise or composure is deserving of special mention. To say that the admiral found it necessary to say a few crushing words in addition, is paying the Teuton naval delegate an honor which is, we are sure, utterly undeserved. The conduct of the Teuton fleet during the war does not indicate that it possesses any officer who could stand up for a moment under the British monocle in action.

THE STORM AND THE AFTERMATH.

(Commerce and Finance.)

Life is getting to be dull. For nearly 5 years we have been accustomed, first thing in the morning, to take from the threshold of our chamber door the morning papers and read of battles, of the clash of mighty forces, of sea fights, of events that stirred our emotions. The headlines blazed the whole upper portion of the front pages. The text absorbed us. The details remained fresh in our mind throughout the day and furnished subjects for never ending discussions. We had before us each day the chapters of a tragedy without parallel. Everything that went before in all the wonderful world history was dwarfed by comparison. We were buoyed by high hopes one day, depressed by the happenings of the next. Never was there check or stop to the unfolding drama.

And now, when we gather our papers to us in the morning, we find the headlines smaller, the tales less thrilling, the reaction from the reading far different from what it used to be.

The heart beats are not so rapid now as they were when we read before. The depths of feeling are not sounded by the printed words. There is not so much that is electrical in the tales the types tell. We read but feel vaguely that something is missing.

It is so, perhaps, with millions of others throughout this broad land and it is happily so.

The storm has ended, a storm the like of which the world never witnessed before and never should see again.

When great storms pass they seem to us like dreams, things imagined or only half true. We have been keyed up so high, have been at such a tension that the sudden calm numbs us.

So it is that life today seems dull, happily dull.

ENGLAND KNOWS.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

"It has been a long, hard road to the end of the tunnel," says Lloyd George, "but how glorious is the sunshine now!"—England knows.

BILL NOT AT HOME.

"I see," said Kaiser Bill, as he read the noon editions, "that enemy soldiers are planning to invade the fatherland. But when they arrive father won't be here." Whereupon, says the Detroit News, he resumed packing his grip.

AN ARGUMENT FOR PROHIBITION.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

One may look far and wide for a better prohibition argument than the reported remarks of a colonel in the American Expeditionary Force. "What made a prohibitionist of me," said he, "was seeing National Army regiments, that have been organized out of the draft from the dry states, the states that have been dry for a long time, so that their present generation of draft age has grown up without ever seeing saloons. If that's what prohibition can do for an army, I'm certainly for prohibition all the way through."

DEFAULTERS ARE DESERTERS.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

A Gatineau Point man has been sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude for deserting from His Majesty's forces while on active service. The Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, through their secretary, Mr. R. M. Stewart, are very properly urging that the government shall not allow defaulters to escape the penalty of their conduct during the time of national sacrifice. Men who evaded the draft were, in effect, deserters. While men who enlisted have been punished for deserting, the men who failed to report, cannot in justice be allowed to return to civil life in Canada, as citizens. The department of justice should clear up all doubt regarding the attitude of the government towards evaders of the draft. They are deserters, and it is not likely that the community would be satisfied with any policy of treating them leniently, while military deserters go to gaol of 20 years.

MONS!

(Christian Science Monitor.)

"Horses and men," runs an extract from the diary of an officer who took part in the retreat, "transport and guns, an endless procession they passed, blackened with grime, bearing evident signs of the past few days of fighting. But the men were in good spirits. They were retreating, but this was not a defeated army." There was, surely, a poetic justice in the fact that one of the last incidents in the war should be the return of a British force to Mons.

The retreat from Mons will always stand out as one of the most masterly achievements of the war. The odds against the British were overwhelming, and the task was one which called for the coolest judgment on the part of the commander, and the utmost steadiness on the part of the men. Both were abundantly forthcoming.

KITCHENER'S PLAN TO PUNISH GERMANY.

(London Morning Post.)

Shortly before his death Lord Kitchener informed us that he regarded the conduct of Germany as something outside the range of human experience. The Germans, he said, had deliberately prepared over a long period of years for the domination of the world. In this design they had used their subjects as spies and corrupting agents. They had used the hospitality of their neighbors to prepare their destruction. It was the crime of a whole nation, and it was specially directed against the British empire, which had given the Germans every privilege that British subjects enjoyed. His opinion was that we should do something to punish Germany for this organized treachery, and so to mark our detestation of the system as to prevent it ever happening again. Lord Kitchener's proposal was to pass a law that for twenty-one years no German should be allowed to naturalize himself or take up his domicile in the United Kingdom and the British empire, far as the authority of the Imperial Parliament extended, or to enter into partnership in any British business, or become a shareholder in any British company.