

Public Opinion

SAFETY FIRST. (Life.)

The Kaiser has six sons at the back of the front.

UNWORTHY OF CONFIDENCE. (Ottawa Journal-Press.)

After this we put "war experts' opinions and race-track tips in the same class.

A BACKGROUND OF COURAGE.

There are hundreds of years of traditional courage now being used to hold that British line, declares The Detroit Free Press.

THE MEN OF HARLECH. (Toronto Globe.)

The Men of Harlech are still martial. The flow of recruits from the Welsh mining districts to Cardiff for enlistment has swamped the recruiting staff.

HISTORIC ZORRA. (Toronto Globe.)

An attack on the Canadian lines is expected before long. The Germans "will not take Zorra." Vimy Ridge has become the Zorra of our men in France.

SEEING CLEARER. (Wall Street Journal.)

Irish who can't see the rest of the world through a haze of hate for England might see clearer on the French front.

THE LACK OF MEN. (Buffalo Commercial.)

The Irish bishops who are counselling resistance to conscription for Ireland scarcely seem to realize that civilization and Christianity are trembling in the balance for lack of men.

WAR WORDS.

(Commerce and Finance.)

Some of the war words, imported and domestic, have fitted so easily into everyday usage here that one wonders how we ever got along without them. The language would be poorer without "camouflage" and "bolshhevik," "boche" and "hooverized."

DO THEY REALIZE IT? (Buffalo Times.)

We are all in the same boat. Life wouldn't be worth living, in Ireland or anywhere else, if the Hun were to win this war. We are certain the people of Ireland realize this. We are sure the politicians who raised the storm which beat about Lloyd George's head have mistaken both the mood and the temper of the public they profess to represent.

MAKE BUTTERFLIES WORK. (Vancouver Sun.)

There are large numbers of girls of the kind who consider themselves "society," who are not raised with any idea that they have any duties to perform in the world. They and their mothers do nothing but set a bad example by living in luxurious idleness.

HIGH COST OF BOLSHEVISM. (New York Herald.)

What Lenin and Trotsky and their associates have cost the Russian people is not measured in honor alone. A loss of 56,000,000 in population and thirty-two per cent. in territory means something even to Russia. The high cost of Bolshevism includes seventy-three per cent. of the total iron production, eighty-nine per cent. of the total coal production, and practically all of the manufacturing industry of the country.

A WAR SERMONETTE. (C. W. Barron, in Boston Post.)

"After thirty years in preparation the Kaiser sprang a surprise upon the world, and the democracy and brotherhood of man. Do you think he sprang a surprise upon God Almighty? Hell must have play within limits, or the world, and man's freedom between good and evil, would be out of bounds.

"Every man, woman and child under democracy is now called upon to support the forces of light, truth and freedom. No issue is in our hands but that of the might of our individual contributions."

BY PRIVATE VANDERBILT.

(Son of Cornelius Vanderbilt, in Camp Wadsworth's Newspaper.)

Courage! What if the snows are deep,
And what if the hills are long and steep,
And the days are short and the nights are long,
And the good are weak, and the bad are strong;
Courage! The snow is a field of play,
And the longest hill has a well-worn way;
There are songs that shorten the longest night;
There's a day when wrong shall be ruled by right.
So courage, courage! * * * 'Tis never so far
From a plodded path to a shining star.

ENCOURAGING INITIATIVE.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Sir Henry Wilson, the new chief of the British Imperial general staff, pleased some men of the new army by a brief little speech which he made to them some time ago. It was brief enough to quote at length. "You men," he said, "must not be afraid of taking responsibility and showing initiative. If you find yourselves in a tight corner, in which it seems to you that the book is wrong, then chuck the book." With such backing as that, it is not likely that the men will be shy in following the advice.

MALTHUS IS STILL WRONG.

(New York Sun.)

Present conditions in the food market do not indicate that population has overtaken and passed man's ability to wing three meals a day from the earth. Malthus is still just as wrong as he was when sugar was four cents a pound. An opponent of Malthusianism could be excused for saying just now that food conditions are not caused by too much population, but by lack of it. So many millions of men are engaged on the business of war that agriculture suffers; the field lies idle while the man who used to till it goes over the top.

WASTE OF PAPER.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Rumors exist that the Government may require newspapers and publications to reduce in size as a measure of economy in fuel, labor, and transportation. If such an order were determined upon it would be loyally obeyed. But before it issues may we suggest that existing waste be checked before newspapers and magazines, which are necessary sources of public intelligence, be cut down? In fact, economy might begin, like charity, at home. The Government and its various agencies are probably the worst wasteful in the country.

WHERE SHE FIGHTS BEST.

(Chicago Evening Post.)

Trust the battleline of England the Indomitable! Of all the peoples of history, none more than the English have shown the strength that comes in the fight with back to the wall. The last ditch is where England fights best, and there she will fight best to-day if forced to it by the most tremendous military pressure the world has ever known. Thank God our boys are fighting at her side, even if it be but a few of them! May they carry to her the assurance of our faith and glory in her. May they sweep aside the ancient prejudices that have made us grudge England her fair meed of trust and honor.

TAKE UP THE TORCH:

(London Daily Mail.)

Let us take up the torch. Let the whole nation show that it understands what is now at stake. The first and gravest need is men to fill the gaps in "this swift and joyful generation of youth, now fighting and falling on the battlefield for great glory and the world's salvation." The "comb-out" must go forward, and there must be no more shirking and slacking. It is something that the miners have already realized the situation, and that as the result of the electrifying speech made to them recently by the Prime Minister, with the news fresh before him that our troops were struggling against odds, but were yet holding their ground, they have decided that the calling-up of men from their ranks shall go through. This is the right spirit. It is the crisis of our fate. Let the answer go back to our army from the nation here behind the lines:

No parleying now! In Britain is one breath;
We all are with you now from shore to shore—
Ye men of ours, 'tis victory or death.

A STEADYING THOUGHT.

(New York World.)

Napoleon Bonaparte once said that the British seldom won a battle except the last one, and that is a thought which should steady some despondent minds to-day.

THE QUESTION OF LUXURIES.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

It would be interesting to know what William Morris, were he in the United States to-day, would have to say upon the vital question of labor wastage through the continued production of luxuries. He once wrote that he was amazed at the immensity of the work undertaken for the making of useless things. As far as most of the objects in shop windows were concerned, no one wanted them at all. Only a foolish habit made even the lightest-minded of men suppose that they were needful; while, to many people, these useless things were obvious encumbrances to real work, thought, and pleasure. The crowded American candy shops, for instance, would be places in which a disciple of William Morris might launch the poet-essayist's theories to good effect.

LEGAL TENDER FOR TIPS.

(Wall Street Journal.)

If you must tip the waiter, give him thrift stamps. If it is worth a quarter to let the doorman check your hat, give him a thrift stamp. On the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, where bridge and bid whist are popular with commuters, they pay their card debts with thrift stamps. The trainman, instead of getting the usual quarter for "loaning" cards and board, gets a thrift stamp. A Wall Street brokers pays for his shoe shines with thrift stamps even though it costs a stamp for two shines. Another broker who was reprimanded by a policeman for speeding his automobile eased his conscience by donating a handful of thrift stamps for one of the policeman's children. There would be good support for a law making it illegal to pay tips except in thrift stamps.

OVER THERE — AND HERE.

(Commerce and Finance.)

In France they are dying. They are dying by the thousands and the tens of thousands in that last line of resistance which has never failed — the human wall of free men. The earth rises up beneath them, and death descends upon them from the sky that is no longer free.

Men of Britain's stock, men of Britain's daughters, from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and India, from the last output of the English tongue, are dying there to-day. Exiles from Belgium who have not forgotten; men of consecrated France who have not forgotten their pillaged homes, their enslaved women, their grandparents lying on the bleeding ground; men of America who have not forgotten the murdered victims of the Lusitania, who hear again the cries of women and little children; men who are wondering what is going on at home. They are dying by the thousands and the tens of thousands. Their days are without nights, their weeks without end. The blood of all that love liberty, right and human ideals is being spilt over there, our blood, while we are making up our minds how much to subscribe!

WAR'S GREATEST MOMENT.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

It is true that the present is the greatest moment of the war. It is the moment when the captured German dispatches themselves show that the effort is to be made to crush the British line, no matter at what cost, so as to pave the way to the crushing of the other nations. Now the force, which is holding the British line is not merely the force of courage. It is that marvelous, blind reaching out for Principle which is making the blood-stained trenches of to-day the antechamber to the New Religion. What the New Religion is, men will discover all in good time. It will evolve itself out of the self-sacrifices of the trenches, out of the putting off in those trenches of the old man, and the putting on of the new. The men who are standing in those trenches are standing as completely for Truth as the men who eighteen hundred years ago faced the lions in the Roman circus, or the girls who were bound to the top of the masts, in Nero's gardens, as torches to light the night of his debaucheries. They are fighting the battle of Principle as clearly as old Latimer, rejoicing at the stake, in Oxford, that he was lighting such a candle in England as should never be extinguished, or as Lincoln, facing the fury of half Christendom that the slave might go free. There is no question about what these men are doing, the question rather is what is being done at home to support them.