

Public Opinion

MARSE HENRY TO KAISER BILL.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

Had Wilhelm lived some centuries ago, and pillaged and murdered Saracens with the cross upon his banner, he might have been mistaken by the mob for a religious man. Nowadays pretense of piety cannot mask the motives of a scoundrel, nor can a crown and the purple of royalty make a Hohenzollern seem other than the self-seeking criminal and ruffian he happens to be.

"MY SON. OH MY SON!"

(New York Editor and Publisher.)

Harry Lauder was one of the speakers at the luncheon tendered to the distinguished French editor, Stephane Lauzanne, on Monday. He surprised his hearers by the simple pathos, as well as by the trumpet-like patriotism, of his address. In closing he turned to Mr. Lauzanne, and said: "I am one of those who love France. I own a little corner of your country. It is a small plot, lying on the crest of one of her green hills, back of the battle lines. My son is there, buried in the sacred soil which has always nurtured human liberty. All of the gladness of my life is buried there in his grave."

AUTOCRACY VS. DEMOCRACY.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Now, it is entirely true that when autocracy sets out to rule beneficently it can achieve wonders. Merely as concerns honesty, order and sanitation, it was a blessing to a peaceful Germany. Your life, your health and your purse were astonishingly safe. So far, excellent, but what of your soul? Autocracy did your thinking for you. It supplanted your conscience. It not only robbed you of your heart's best prerogatives but made you very thankful for being robbed of them. And when the long awaited and passionately wished for day arrived, it plunged Germany into a mad conflict with four fifths of the human race. We make no excuses for the failures of democracy. But we do not admire the autocracy of Turkey or of old Russia, nor, taking it all in all, can we admire German autocracy. The fatherland's present rulers found a docile, industrious, peace-loving race, educated it, organized it, disciplined it, endowed it with unexampled efficiency and headed it for calamity and woe illimitable. Just here is our count against autocracy. Never mind about its success or its fizzle as a government at home; there is no argument there; one autocracy happens to have succeeded, others have fizzled. What concerns us vitally is the fact that any autocracy anywhere, may at any moment become predatory, a menace to its subjects and a terror to the world at large.

THE TWO JOHNS.

(Touchstone in London Daily Mail.)

John Brown went out to the war—
Went of his own volition.
The army had men, but it wanted more,
And he threw up a good position.
His country was faced by a savage foe,
And it never occurred to him not to go.

John Smith remained behind
Where prospects were more inviting.
For he was a man of a peaceful kind,
With little stomach for fighting.
There was plenty, he said, to help us win,
And, incidentally, save his skin.

John Brown had the deuce of a time
In excessively awkward places;
John Smith continued, with trust sublime,
Selling of ribbons and laces,
Though but for Brown and the likes of Brown
The Germans had certainly come to town.

The posters may make appeals;
John Smith is strong to resist 'em.
The root of an Englishman's rights, he feels,
Is our voluntary system.
If we used compulsion to such as he
Where would our boasted liberty be?

TWO SLOGANS.

(Brooklyn Eagle.)

The British slogan is "Carry On!" The German, "Carry Off."

DON'T WORRY.

(Higham's Magazine.)

So far as is known, no bird tried to build more nests than its neighbor; no fox ever fretted because he had only one hole in which to hide; no squirrel ever died of anxiety lest he should not lay by enough nuts for two winters instead of for one; and no dog ever lost any sleep over the fact that he did not have enough bones laid aside for his declining years.

ORIGIN OF MILITARY SALUTE.

The military salute, which some of our soldiers and sailors are occasionally accused of omitting, had a curious origin, if tradition is to be believed, says the London Chronicle. It is said that it originated in the days of the tournament, at which a queen of beauty was chosen to preside. The knights and their esquires and all who took part in the tourney, on presenting themselves before the queen lifted each one a hand level with the brows as though dazzled by the light of her presence. A nicely thought out compliment this, and though its significance is now forgotten, the natural dignity of the gesture has preserved it as an everyday mark of recognition of a superior in rank.

WATCHES.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

The best equipped army that ever took the field, as the British Army has often been styled, is remarkably well equipped in one respect, and that is in the matter of watches. The wrist watch, which at first only with great difficulty established itself as a possibility for men, has long since swept all before it, and, with or without a luminous face, is nowadays regarded as almost an essential part of the soldier's outfit. Such a widespread use has, of course, been rendered possible only by the extraordinary progress which has been made in watchmaking in comparatively recent years. Thirty or forty years ago, the watch was still a prized possession, and its possession almost amounted to a class distinction. And yet the world had known of and used watches for many centuries. They were antedated, it is true, by clocks, but the moment that Pope Sylvester, in A. D. 996, constructed "the first clock," as he is credited with having done, watches became inevitable.

TEUTONIC LOGIC.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

At the time of the destruction of Louvain by the German troops in August, 1914, Mr. Gibson, first secretary of the American legation in Brussels, in company with some other diplomatic officials, was conducted about Louvain by a German officer.

"Just to see what would happen," says Mr. Gibson, "I inquired about the provision of The Hague Conventions prescribing that no collective penalty can be imposed for lawless acts of individuals. He (the German officer) dismissed that to his own satisfaction by remarking:

"All Belgians are dogs and all would do these things unless they are taught what will happen to them."

"Convincing logic!"

"With a hard glint in his eye he told us the purpose of his work; he came back to it over and over, but the burden of what he had to say was something like this:

"We shall make this place a desert. We shall wipe it out so that it will be hard to find where Louvain used to stand. For generations people will come here to see what we have done and it will teach them to respect Germany and to think twice before they resist her. Not one stone on another, I tell you — nie ein Stein auf einander!"

"I agreed with him when he remarked that people would come here for generations to see what Germany has done — but he did not seem to follow my line of thought."

CONSCRIPTS.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Conscripts in the ordinary sense covered themselves with glory in all the battles of the last half of the war. Conscripts in the ordinary sense hurled back the Germans at the Marne, saved Verdun, fought the battle of the Somme. Let us drop the foolish opprobrium that clings to the word conscript. Especially let us drop any indifference we may affect toward winners in the selective draft. No American thinks of those splendid lads without feeling within him the impulse to cheer or at least to spring to his feet and propose a toast.

Gentlemen: The National Army!

THE BROADER VIEW IN CANADA.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Canadians are not sparing of themselves in analyzing the conditions and responsibilities confronting the Dominion at this time. In no other country in the world, probably, is there a more outspoken press than that which in Canada reflects all shades of public opinion. Whether the Canadian newspaper which one takes in hand is for or against the Government, or for or against the Government's policy in any particular, it does not mince words in stating what it believes to be the truth. This has been a Canadian newspaper characteristic for years; it was just as pronounced in the time of Sir John A. Macdonald as it is in the times of Sir Robert Borden. In political discussion, the Canadian press has never upholstered its language. It does not now waste time in hunting for soft phrases. But it is less partisan and more broadly political, less provincial and more national, less national and more imperial, and less imperial and more universal in its tone today than it was before August 1, 1914.

Its departure from personality is no less marked than the departure from partisanship. Party lines are still recognized, but they are steadily becoming fainter. Sometimes they parallel each other so closely that it is impossible to distinguish one from the other, and sometimes they cross and recross each other, with confusing results. Here the Conservative line is defended by Liberals; there the Liberal line is defended by Conservatives.

What is really taking place is that, after three years in which, with the exception of Quebec, every element of the population has given readily and cheerfully of its best, narrow partisanship is making way for the broadest patriotism. The question has ceased to be one of party opportunity or advantage; it has become one of national imperial, and human import.

Canada has long since tired of pretension and platitude. It has turned away from those who talk, and is pinning its faith to those who do. It had its period of flag waving and national anthem singing in the first two years of the war; during the last year it has seen that the issue is one not to be circumscribed by nationality; that the decision on this issue is not to be estimated in terms of money; territory, or trade advantage; that the thing at stake is the right of freemen to freedom. It has turned back to the ideals upon which its foundations were laid, has fixed them in its vision, and has found that, in comparison with them, and with their preservation, all other things are trivial. Physical Canada would survive even a temporarily triumphant barbarism. The material losses resulting from even a sweeping victory for the enemy would be repaired in time. It is a realization of the repulse which progress on higher planes would suffer from military autocratic ascendancy in the world that has awakened Canada to a new sense of responsibility, a new conception of its duty, and a new understanding of its ability to meet everything that may be required of it.

There will continue to be differences of opinion in Canada with regard to means and methods, there will be fewer differences hereafter regarding the end to be attained. That end is no longer the winning of an advantageous or satisfactory peace for the Mother country, for its possessions, for the Empire, or for its companions in arms, but for all the inhabitants of the earth, now, as well as for the generations to come.

In proportion as Canada is inspired, influenced, and moved by these ideals will its ability to realize them be increased. The Dominion is approaching the fourth year of the war a thousand times clearer in perception, and a thousand times stronger in confidence and resolution, than it was when it entered upon the first.