

Public Opinion

NO SLACKER.

(Wall Street Journal).

A girl gets a guarantee with the man who marries after he has enlisted.

LIVING UP TO THEIR NAMES.

(Wall Street Journal).

There was a day on the Curb recently when two principal war stocks lived up to their names. Submarine boat stock on receipt of unfavorable news took quick dive, torpedoing a number of bulls; at the same time Curtiss Aeroplane commenced to soar in record flight on report that company would receive large government order.

GRASS.

(Christian Science Monitor).

In every northern country, the world round, about now, when the hay harvest is just beginning, in full swing, or just over, grass is very much in the air, in every meaning of that phrase. Next to trees or rivers, or, indeed, one might say, equally with them, grass is one of the best-loved things in nature. The trees overhead, "the grass beneath our feet," and the waters of the river, running through a good land, have conjured up, for the men of many ages, visions of rest, peace, and plenty.

NEWSPAPER CRITICISMS.

(Newspaper World).

Criticising newspapers—particularly modern newspapers—is a familiar enough occupation nowadays. In common with a few other public institutions such as railways and parliament, newspapers are regarded as quite legitimate targets for all kinds of adverse remarks, and, in fact, we have become so accustomed to them that we are beginning to accept them as a part almost of our existence, necessary perhaps in order to prevent our heads from getting unduly swelled. We do not always take them even with sufficient gravity; certainly never with the amount of seriousness with which they are delivered. We know, of course, that a tremendous proportion of this criticism is utterly unworthy of any notice, being but the irresponsible utterances of people who do not appreciate the duties and position of the press.

A NEW ANTISEPTIC.

(Westminster Gazette).

A striking tribute to the new antiseptic, flavine, was paid by Sir John Bland-Sutton at the court of governors of the Middlesex Hospital. Some months ago Dr. C. Browning, of the research department, obtained a dye (named by him "Flavine"), which destroys bacteria in the body without damaging the tissues and without injuring the patient. Flavine can be used for eye treatment without the least damage being done to the delicate tissues of even a child's eye. Sir John Bland-Sutton confessed that he had been more or less a skeptic in regard to the use of antiseptics, but, impressed by the discovery of flavine, he got a limited supply, and used it in his ward, with the result that all the patients got right again in a few days. Certainly it is no exaggeration to say that the discovery of a new antiseptic of this kind is "of national importance."

HINT TO SOME CANADIANS.

(Chicago Tribune).

Fighting men are trained to do their work and take their chances. It is bad enough to have to furnish fighting men. It is worse to have to furnish battlefields.

The United States is at war. Happily for the United States it may fight this war in Europe and not in America. Happily it may fight it with powerful Allies and not alone.

These are conditions for which Americans should be grateful. If they protest against the injustice of them they are insane. We do not want to furnish American battlefields. It is bad enough to be obliged to use European ones. Bad enough in Flanders and France, but, thank God, not in New York and New Jersey.

THE UNEXPECTED WILL HAPPEN.

(Exchange).

Midsummer—and the beginning of the fourth year of the world war! It is a time for solemn thought, if the weather were not too warm for thinking and if the fact were not perfectly clear that thinking doesn't do much good anyway.

The daily papers have devoted many columns to review and resume of the leading features of the great conflict. They have told how it started, but we all knew that before; nobody can tell what all of us want to know—how and when it will end.

Thrones have toppled and kings have fled. A little Welsh lawyer has become the hope of Britain. The fate of millions hangs upon a thin, dark man in Russia whom nobody had heard of until day before yesterday. The only prophecy one can venture is this: The unexpected will happen.

HIGH COST OF WATCH REPAIRING.

(Wall Street Journal).

Have you broken your watch and then wondered why it cost 50 to 200 per cent more to repair it than in past years? If you blamed it on the war, you hit the nail on the head. Before the war, large quantities of watch parts, especially those the more easily broken, were imported from Switzerland, but now only small shipments are received. American companies turn out these parts, but high cost of materials and labor has had its effect, and the lure of munitions profits has made itself felt. The more delicate parts of guns and shells, such as time fuses, are now manufactured by domestic watch companies, which takes skilled labor from other lines of watch making.

A NEW EMANCIPATION.

(Toronto Globe).

Mr. Sidney Low, dealing in The Fortnightly Review with the British campaign in Mesopotamia, is inclined to give it a place among the world-shaking events of the war. The expulsion of the Turk from the old capital of the Caliphs (Bagdad), he says, "signifies nothing less than the new birth of a nation; it implies the emancipation of a people (the Arabs) who once created great Empires, who gave the light of religion to Asia, and that of learning and science to Europe."

An Arab revival should, he thinks, make rapid progress with the delivery of this ancient and virile people from "the crude military autocracy that usurped the Moslem papacy."

The Arabs are aiding themselves to fulfill Mr. Low's prophecy. In Arabia their revolts against the Turk seem to have already passed beyond the stage of possible failure to the point where it may become of real assistance in aiding the British to bring an end to tyranny and misrule in Palestine.

SOME NEUTRALS.

(Southern Lumberman).

Among the neutral nations mentioned in the notice of embargo given by the United States were San Marino, Monaco, Lichtenstein, Nepal and Oman. In a military sense these neutrals are unimportant; but as they maintain a form of government, international etiquette demands that they shall be included in the notice of our attitude toward neutral nations.

San Marino has a population of 1,600 and is entirely surrounded by Italy. Not long ago San Marino came into prominence by announcing that it would put its forces at the disposal of the Entente Allies.

Monaco has a population of 3,000. Its capital, Monte Carlo, is the gambling center of the world. Lichtenstein lies between Austria and Switzerland and has a population of about 9,000, with an area of sixty-five square miles. It has had a constitution of its own since 1862.

Nepal and Oman have much population if but little power. Nepal has 4,000,000 population. This country lies on the southern slope of the Himalaya Mountains, bordering on British India. It has been independent since 1768 and once succeeded in defeating the British. In theory Nepal is an absolute monarchy but actually it is ruled by a prime minister and a council. The people are a mixed race of Indo-Afghan and Mongol descent.

Oman is an independent state in southeast Arabia, the capital of which is Muscat. There are 1,500,000 inhabitants, in an area about twice the size of the state of Tennessee.

TALE OF THE BUFFALO.

(Exchange).

The buffaloes found in the telegraph poles of the Overland Line a new source of delight on the treeless prairie—the novelty of having something to scratch against. But it was quite expensive scratching for the telegraph company, and there, indeed, was the rub, for the bisons shook down miles of wire daily. A bright idea struck somebody to send to St. Louis and Chicago for all the bradawls that could be purchased, and these were driven into the poles, with a view to wound the animals and check their rubbing propensity. Never was a greater mistake. The buffaloes were delighted. For the first time they came to the scratch sure of a sensation in their thick hides that thrilled them from horn to tail. They would go fifteen miles to find a bradawl. They fought battles around the poles containing them, and the victor would proudly climb the mountainous heap of his fallen companions and scratch himself into bliss until the bradawl broke or the pole came down. There has been no demand for bradawls from the Kansas region since the first invoice.

THE DRAFT AND MARRIED MEN.

(Boston News Bureau).

One of the stupidest and most unnecessary blunders committed by Congress is now revealing itself. Disregarding the war department's expert advice, certain members of the House of Representatives who had vainly tried to defeat conscription altogether forced into the draft law the absurd age limits of 21 to 31.

When the Grand Army of the Republic marches through the streets of Boston at its annual convention on August 21, it will be led by Col. J. Payson Bradley, who finished up the Civil War at the age of 17, with four years of active service behind him. Three-quarters of the northern army in the Civil War was under 21 years of age. The young men from 21 down to 18, and even younger, make the best soldiers. They are more resilient and stand the hardships of field service better than older men. Not only are they better fighting men, but they can be withdrawn from civil life with much less economic disturbance than the older men. Their value as producers is at a minimum. They are free from responsibility.

SIAM REGISTERS DISAPPROVAL.

(Chicago Tribune).

Noted for twins and white elephants, and noted for little else, Siam will hardly give Germany the shivers by entering the war. But behold how the list of candidly anti-German small fry is growing! Greece has taken up arms. Cuba has proclaimed a state of war. Argentina is on the brink, Brazil well over it. China thinks of joining, and Mexico may, while everywhere the drift is away from cordiality and toward a more or less open hostility at a time when trifles count.

But are they such trifles? With the whole world "registering disapproval," Germany must feel a bit like the good man and true who would have had his way "except for those eleven other jurors." Besides, it is clear that the small fry think Germany must lose. They are not too heroic. They put their money where safety looks surest. And finally, the rising tide of disgruntlement and disdain holds out a shabby prospect for German trade. After the war Greeks, Cubans, Argentinians, Brazilians, Mexicans, Chinamen, and indignant Siamese will be slow to welcome goods "made in Germany." All told, the small fry represent a very impressive fraction of this globe's population and its markets.

TRADITION AND GOOD BOOKS.

(Tale Review).

Good books, like well-built houses, must have tradition behind them. The Homers and Shakespeares and Goethes spring from rich soil left by dead centuries; they are like native trees that grow so well nowhere else. The little writers—backs who sentimentalize to the latest order, and display their plot novelties like bargains on an advertising page—are just as traditional. The only difference is that their tradition goes back to books instead of life. Middle-sized authority—the very good and the probably enduring—are successful largely because they have gripped a tradition and followed it through to contemporary life. This is what Thackeray did in "Vanity Fair." Howells in "The Rise of Silas Lapham," and Mrs. Wharton in "The House of Mirth." But back-to-nature books—both the sound ones and those shameless exposures of the private emotions of ground hogs and turtles that call themselves nature books—are the most traditional of all. For they plunge directly into what might be called the adventures of the American sub-consciousness.