

Public Opinion

ACHIEVING THE IMPOSSIBLE.

(The Chicago Tribune.)

Considering that Foch has no reserve and that there is no American army, the Allies are holding well. The Berliners must wonder how they do it.

PERHAPS A "C" MIGHT DO.

(Vancouver Providence.)

If Count Roon, the German statesman who demands the British navy as part of the war indemnity, would start his name off with an "I" instead of an "R" people would know what made him wild.

THE SPUR OF POVERTY.

(London Daily Chronicle.)

Coleridge, his grandson has been telling us, wrote "The Ancient Mariner" to get a £5-note to enable a holiday to be extended. Johnson wrote "Rasselas" in the evenings of a week to pay a dead mother's debts; Poe offered his "Gold Bug," parent of all buried treasure stories, to win a £20 prize. We owe much to the drive of necessity.

AN AFTER-THE-WAR BOOM.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

So many pessimistic predictions have been made concerning the period of readjustment expected to begin with the return of world peace that the optimistic opinion on the subject offered by John Wanamaker, merchant, of New York and Philadelphia, will be received by many people with pleasure. In the judgment of this trained and experienced business man, the four years following the conclusion of the war are likely to be the most prosperous four years ever known in the United States. Mr. Wanamaker does not set himself up as a prophet, and gives his view simply for what it is worth, but it is the view of a man who has established a great business and won a great fortune through an intuition which tells him, almost unerringly, which side of the market is the right side.

RELATIONS SHOULD BE PERMANENT.

(Toronto Daily Mail and Empire.)

It is a trite saying that the present war has destroyed forever the ancient prejudices that separated the United States and England, prejudices due wholly, we believe, to misunderstanding. For many years we have been accustomed to hear that a war between the two nations was "unthinkable," and this view has been held by the great mass of both peoples. They would now be found, in all probability, willing to cement their old friendship and their present association as comrades in a great war into a definite formal alliance, once it could be shown to them that there was a real advantage to be gained to themselves and for the greater security of the world in general. Any objection to the noble plan briefly outlined by Lord Reading and Dr. Elliot would come from such sources as those of the Hearst newspapers, which have for years been devoted to the unholy task of creating ill-feeling and misunderstanding between the two peoples. We do not know of any similar influence that would be set at work in the British Empire.

THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

David L. Ewing, assistant director of operations of the United States Shipping Board, is exhibiting to his friends a copy of a letter recently received by the American Red Cross at San Francisco. The communication was accompanied by the gold tooth to which it refers and breathes the spirit of war sacrifice as exemplified in the West. The letter follows:

Gents:—Somebody told me that you was after old stuff like old jewellery and such. I got a gold tooth that I can get along without, as I guess the Red Cross needs it more than me. I got two, so I loosened this one and broke it off. The dentist charged me 10 bucks for it, so I guess it will bring you one buck. I don't think he made more than nine on it. Of course it was new then, but I just used it a little better than two years.

I miss it a lot but the price of victuals is going up so I guess I won't need it so much for mush and hamburger as I did when we was used to getting stake for 18c a pound and a chunk of liver threw in. As I said, I got another tooth I might spare if the war gets worse.

(Signed) Jake Thompson.

FOUL FIGHTER, BAD LOSER.

(New York Tribune.)

The German is a foul fighter. He is also a bad loser. He wants to play always with stacked cards. He violates the rules of war when he sees advantage to himself in violating them. But as soon as he begins to suffer from their violation he begins to whimper and asks for a return to civilized practices.

SEDITION.

(Toledo Blade.)

Sedition has shamed loyalty in this country for months. It has interfered materially with the waging of war. It has threatened even the salvation of the nation. Only the severest law could save us from hurt so costly and terrible that the republic might rock on its foundations. We count now upon the Department of Justice and its agents to use the new statute as they would a sword. It has been forged to fit their hands.

THE MORALITY OF LABOR.

(Springfield Republican.)

It might be too academic to discuss the moral fate of a world of idlers, who would be relieved absolutely of the bread-and-butter problem, but one may take advantage of the opportunity to point out that a very good case can be made out for work as a moral stabilizer and developer of the human race. We believe profoundly in work for its own sake. Sheer idleness means deterioration of character. The socialists are not fools enough to raise the moral issue.

NO REASON FOR A COAL PANIC.

(New York World.)

Too much talk of a serious coal shortage next winter will inevitably help to create a panicky feeling among consumers. But never in former years has any large reserve supply of coal been stored in this city during the summer months. The mines simply cannot produce nor the railroads move enough coal in summer to last through the winter. Production and consumption are continuous throughout the twelve months. This year unusual preparations were recommended to those having storage facilities to take advantage of the open season, and where advance orders have been heretofore relatively light an abnormal demand has suddenly been stimulated. The situation may be far from satisfactory in the light of last winter's experience, but it is not yet so desperate as some panic-mongers seek to make it appear.

NOT HALF.

(New York Evening Post.)

Britishers who think their race has a sense of humor extol its value in helping them win the war, and men like Corporal Ward Muir, R.A.M.T.C., who believe they haven't emphasize the value of stolidity. Corporal Muir tells in the Nineteenth Century of Private Brown, one of the "old contemptibles," caught in the fighting retreat from Mons. He was badly wounded in the leg, and captured; and the pursuing Germans had little more time to take care of the wounded than had the stubbornly retiring British. By day and by night, in rain and shine, Brown was lugged hither and thither on a stretcher, dumped in the open, starved, neglected, jolted off again. All around was the racket and confusion of the field-gray tide rolling upon Paris, but Brown was delirious much of the time, and in too much agony the rest to care. A German surgeon amputated Brown's leg, and when poisoning set in again amputated it again; in all, four amputations were performed, two of them in the field. Despite the shock, he was handled roughly after he came from under the knife, and he was finally brought near deaths' door. One night he was set down in a Belgian church, very dimly conscious. His leg was septic again, the poison creeping through his system, and his eyes were closing. Some French nuns came in, reached the stretcher, and tried to give him food and water; they were too late, for he was too far gone. He saw them confer; they went and fetched screens, and fenced off the stretcher from the world; and within this little sanctuary they placed candles. All this finally roused Brown from the lethargy of a man who is as near death as it is possible to be without dying. As he narrated the incident a twelvemonth later:

"Well," he said, "when I saw them nuns put the screens round me and light them candles, I said to myself, I said, 'This is getting beyond a joke!'"

STAGED AT HOME.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The downfall of Kuehlmann and the elevation of Hintze is said to be a great triumph for German militarists. We notice that most of their triumphs nowadays are staged at home.

AMERICAN DYES.

(Philadelphia, Pa., Ledger.)

At an exhibition of the textile industry in New York one of the interesting features was a comparison of German-dyed and American-dyed textiles which had been equally exposed out of doors for three weeks, day and night, and had the same washing. According to the unbiased testimony of all observers, both sets look alike, which disposes of another piece of German industrial arrogance which assumed that nobody but the Germans could develop in quantity dyes of quality and staying powers. Of course, this is all fol-de-rol, and chemists like Bakeland long since pointed out wherein American industrial chemistry was superior to that of German in materials and money totals, exposing absolutely the fallacy which Germans and pro-Germans have tried to force us to accept. As it is now, those who ought to know better among American manufacturers and retailers have been playing into the hands of Germany by talking as if German dyes never failed. They did; and these very same manufacturers and shopkeepers know it. So let's have an end to this pro-German talk. Even if the exigencies may yet give us some American dyes that are not fast, we can certainly stand that rather than the German yoke. But why repeat the canard when it can be officially disproved?

AFTER WAR RE-ADJUSTMENTS.

(Chicago Tribune.)

War has changed the habits of a hundred and more millions of people gradually. Peace may readjust these habits abruptly. It is easier to take a man and make a soldier of him than to take a soldier and make a citizen of him. When you take a soldier you assume parental control of him. You assume responsibility for his upkeep and living. He does not have to worry about his sustenance. That problem is up to the power which received or conscripted him. When you make a civilian of a soldier you absolve yourself of all parental care — in an indifferent country. You merely turn him loose. His subsistence is his problem. That is the very thing which this nation, having conscripted its men, cannot afford to do. It is apparent how many violent changes war has made. Peace will make changes just as violent in returning to normal. For the protection of the very best people who live in the United States and work for it the nation must now, while there is time, consider what to do with these men and women whose lives have been changed by war. We must make it possible for them to return to peace. The only way we can make it possible is by anticipating the certain conditions of the future and by providing against them.

IN DAYS OF YORE.

(London Morning Post.)

It is a very long time since the Archbishop of Cologne first took a hand in our English affairs. When Richard Coeur de Lion was so foolish as to trust to the good faith of Austria and was captured in the suburbs of Vienna by his fellow Crusader Duke Leopold, the Duke and the Emperor held our King up to ransom. The English are a trusting and good-natured people, and when the Emperor and the Duke fixed the King's ransom at 100,000 marks our forefathers sold their goods and their plate—and no doubt bought ransom certificates—in order to pay it. As they paid, the Emperor raised the price, after the good old German fashion. The ransom went up to 150,000 marks, and Richard was not released. Then the Archbishop of Cologne busied himself on Richard's behalf and raised a loan to liquidate the debt. Richard, we may suppose, was as eager to get out of Germany as the wretched prisoners in Germany are to-day, and he was fain to agree to any terms that his Grace the Archbishop was willing to make. And the interest took the shape of a freibrief or privilege to Richard's "beloved Cologners, in which he releases them not only from their yearly payment of two English shillings for their Guildhall in London, but also from all other taxes to the King, payable either from persons or goods in London or in any other part of England." Thus the first English prisoner in Germany of whom we have record gained his liberty, and thus the Germans obtained their first charter of Free Trade in England.