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PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS

Sidelights on What Some People Think the World is Doing

STROMBOLI, we are told, has lately been showing unusual activity, even for an Italian volcano. If the Germans owned Stromboli they would either convert it into a war machine or abolish it. Hot lava flowing over the Allied armies would be enough to cause a new Te Deum in Germany.

THOSE Italians who are trapezing over the clouds and scaling cliffs where the eagles find it too cold to nest, in order to drive back the Austrians are a fresh proof of the saying, "War comes high, but we must have it." At the same time this war is not an outing of the Alpine Club.

GEN. HUGHES, at the Welsh Eisteddfod, gallantly prevented a lady harpist from having a bad fall by grabbing her chair. He is now entitled to the lasting gratitude of Lloyd George. Any soldier who in these strenuous times preserves a harpist from falling deserves to be allowed to trace his ancestry back to the Llewellyns.

BORROWING money in the United States to buy American cotton so that Germany won't get it is a form of financial jugglery not dreamed of in Great Britain a year ago. But cotton has always been a source of trouble. It was the cause of the American Civil War and has spoiled more than one alleged all-wool piece of goods.

KOVNO is the first Russian fort the loss of which was frankly and unreservedly put down by the experts as a real calamity. That is something. The tide may turn at Kovno.

HARRY LAUDER is going to sing in Flanders trenches to British troops without pay. Even at that it will still be true that this is a war without music. The headquarters staffs should arrange a vaudeville tour of Lauder and Botrel, the French bard who has been singing for nothing to the French troops since last fall.

VON BUELOW said in his book, Imperial Germany, that it was the business of the German government to squelch Social Democracy. At present Liebknecht seems to be about the only good-sized Social Democrat left who has spunk enough to oppose a new German war loan in the Reichstag.

SOME people have been asking—Does gunfire cause rain? A writer in the Toronto World says there were angels of the fourth dimension at the retreat from Mons. Pretty soon we shall begin to believe that Mars and the moon are coming into the war. At the same time it gets harder every one of these mellow moonlighted evenings to believe it's the same moon that shines over Germany.

MR. REILLY writes to the Chicago Tribune from Berlin, pointing out that it seems quite likely, for sundry and divers reasons, that Germany may yet win this war. Well, so far as the several thousand Canadians in Chicago are concerned that gentleman will never have it said of him as it was in the old comic song, "Is that Mr. Reilly they speak of so highly?"

SPAIN is said to be angry with the Allies, and especially at England, for owning and occupying Gibraltar. Well, it was a vacancy in the throne of Spain that was the nominal cause of the Franco-Prussian War; but that is no reason why the King,

who married an English Royal wife, should be Alfonsing to Germany in 1915.

NOW Switzerland is said to be getting ready to go to war against the Allies because the war has interfered with Swiss trade. We also remember that Switzerland, of all countries in Europe, had to produce a William Tell in the cause of liberty.

AN UNINTENTIONAL JAB



The photographer's inscription on this picture naively said, "Putting the finishing touches on John Bull for the Bank Holiday Carnival." Likely some German spy cartoonist will copy this and put the Kaiser in place of the cowboy.

Perhaps she is anxious to get from Italy the remainder of the Alps.

NOVA SCOTIANS who passed off old plugs to the horse-buyers for the War Office evidently expected this to be a short war. One horse was 32 years old. He just nicely missed being a colt at the time of the Siege of Paris in 1870.

WAR MINISTER MILLERAND, addressing Lord Kitchener at a dinner in Paris last week, "If the road to Tipperary is long, the price is sufficiently high to justify us paying for all the

delays, difficulties and sadnesses along the road, because the price is the liberation of the world." Now let some song expert rise up and remind M. Millerand that the correct wording should have been, "It's a long way to Tipperary."

WHAT does W. J. Bryan, the pacifist, really think of that son-in-law of his, who was "mentioned in orders" last week by Sir Ian Hamilton for distinguished gallantry in action? Perhaps he will write the young man a letter pointing out that forcing the Dardanelles is a kind of compulsion not to be tolerated in any free country.

CONDEMNING newspaper war bogies, the London Spectator says very cleverly: "Our early Victorian ladies were apt at a crisis to say, 'I shall go upstairs and have a good cry.' We wish our newspaper proprietors could be induced to follow their example and get it over upstairs instead of on the street." But if tears are good for the theatre box office, why not on the front page of a newspaper?

MOST amazing instance of beginning everything all over again right back to the first letters of the alphabet is that ABC conference recalled by President Wilson to deal with the case of Mexico. Uncle Sam would probably be relieved if the conference could call itself the XYZ and get the Mexican question settled for good.

TORONTO Trades and Labour Council have condemned the tipping system as applied to waitresses in restaurants, many of whom, they say, depend largely upon tips to get a decent living wage. All those customers who have heretofore considered it a breach of etiquette to hand money to a lady are welcome to subscribe to a fund to organize the waitresses.

A CANADIAN doctor who was studying in a German hospital in 1914 says that he saw a German medical professor get so angry over a trifle that he kicked a pretty young nurse to the floor. The only redeeming feature in the case is that this hyper-scientific super-savage didn't kick her in the face after she was down.

ONE of those cryptic American newspaper headings complained of recently by Mr. Cecil Chesterton says, "Wheat goes down as sun comes up." If that heading had appeared in a farm paper somebody would be writing to the editor to say that wheat does no such thing when the sun comes up; it only goes down with wind and rain.

LADY SCOTT, widow of Capt. Scott, who lost his life in the South Pole Expedition, has joined the electrical department in the Vickers factories making war munitions for the Allies. As she is a sculptor by profession, her deftness of touch is supposed to be a great advantage in working on delicate machinery. This is a new light on the uses of art in war.

A MINNEAPOLIS man, speaking at a dinner of Sioux Falls wholesalers and retailers, remarked that the lure of the city is not confined to business, but has a great deal to do with amusement—by which, being from Minneapolis, he meant to include music. But in this country just now it is the lure of the land that means most to the prosperity of everybody.