

Public Opinion

GOOD SHOOTING—GOOD SHOTS.

(Toronto Globe.)

The Crown Prince remarked on the good shooting to a Toronto officer, Capt. Gordon Hunter, who was a prisoner in Germany. He has had occasion to note also the good marksmanship of Canadians.

"ITS A LONG WAY TO YOKOHAMA."

(Ottawa Citizen.)

One of the employees of the Canadian commissioner's office in Yokohama has written in for an increase of salary from \$9.75 to \$12 a month, as he has a wife and five children, and the cost of living is going up. What is the steamship fare to Yokohama? Or how's swimmin'?

THE MYSTIC NUMBER.

(Syracuse Post-Standard.)

Woodrow Wilson admits a fondness for the number 13. He took office in 1913. There are 13 letters in his name, and in the names of his indispensable friend of former years, William J. Bryan and of his present Secretary of State, Robert Lansing. The St. Mihiel battle was won on Friday, the 13th, by John J. Pershing, (13 letters), acting under the supreme command of Ferdinand Foch (13).

FAVORED IRELAND.

(New York World.)

Ireland has the same rights and privileges in the British Empire as Scotland and Wales, except for local self-government even more than the great Dominions of Canada and Australia. It has a larger representation in Parliament than its population warrants. It enjoys every guarantee of conscience, press and speech which the Britain constitution affords. In the matter of land tenures its people are favored by the laws to be found in no other country. Rebellion and other crimes participated in by a few violent men have been sternly punished, but Ireland is not a Belgium or a Serbia, devastated and enslaved by a power setting itself above treats and laws, and every sensible person knows it.

THE BRITISH IN DAMASCUS.

(New York Times.)

General Sir Edmund Allenby's capture of Damascus appeals to the imagination because it is "the oldest city in the world," its earliest history lost in the mists of time. There is still contention upon the point whether Abram's steward Eliezer was of Damascus. In our modern period we do not know what its real population is; the estimate runs from 154,000 to 225,000. Connected with the port of Beirut and with Mezerib by rail, and a market place for the whole desert of Syria, with its orchards, vineyards, and fields in a circuit of sixty miles. Damascus is a rich prize for the British. They will know how to protect its people and develop their very considerable manufactures without infringing upon personal liberty or meddling with their faith.

WAR WIDOWS AND RE-MARRIAGE.

(New York Evening Post.)

What would Tony Weller, what would Uncle Toby, what would Sir Roger de Coverley, think of a land so tragically full of widows as England to-day? It is a subject in which even Dickens would find nothing but sadness; yet sociologists extract a certain comfort from figures showing that the social fabric is partially repairing itself. Five or six years after the Crimean War, the authorities found that of every thousand marriages, one hundred were the re-marriages of widows. The normal ratio may be taken as about that of 1911-61 to the thousand. In 1914 the figure began rising, it continued to do so in 1915, and in 1916, according to the British Registrar-General, it reached 85 to the thousand. Last year it is estimated that it rose to 94, and there is reason to believe that it will yet attain the figure of post-Crimean days. This is a fairly familiar phenomenon; it has been observed in this country by these responsible for the payment of benefits to the widows of men killed in disasters, that within a few years an extraordinary number re-married. In England the disproportion between the numbers of men and women is such that we would not expect the re-marriage to be so great as here after the Civil War; though the presence of a million colonials in or near England has reduced the disproportion.

FORTUNES FOUNDED ON THRIFT.

(Prudential Weekly Record.)

Suppose you run over a few of the names most familiar representing colossal fortunes of to-day. Note down, for instance, the names of a score or more of those in this country and in the Old World that represent great wealth — thrift started them all. Almost without exception the living chief representatives of these great names in the roll of vast wealth could draw their checks for millions at a clip, and almost in every instance the founders of the fortunes laid the foundations in thrift, even as did Rothschild and Astor, the children of poor German parents; Carnegie, the bobbin-boy; Schwab, the juvenile, dollar-a-day stage driver; Girard, the poor French boy who amassed enormous wealth in Philadelphia in the early days of the American Republic; Wanamaker, who himself delivered, by wheelbarrow, his first orders in his first business venture; Jay Gould, whose beginnings were as a country mouse-trap, map and notion peddler; Cornelius Vanderbilt the commodore, ferryman between Staten Island and New York, before Fulton invented his "Clermont" and steam navigation by water, and scores, hundreds, thousands of other disciples of thrift. Out of early thrift habits came in all these cases, not only great wealth, but brilliant success as master-builders of institutions of public usefulness.

OUR BIG NEIGHBOR'S GENEROUS TRIBUTE.

(New York Editor and Publisher.)

From the first days of the great war Canada—Uncle Sam's best-loved neighbor-nation — has been a mighty factor in the struggle. Her armies have been always under the fiery test, and have won imperishable renown. Vimy Ridge made the allied nations know Canada and the Canadian soldiers — and made Germany fear them. Yet, in that superb action the Canadians merely afforded a partial vision of their quality—of their devotion to the cause of freedom and democracy which has been tested a new and gloriously vindicated in every Allied campaign on the western front.

Here in the United States we knew Canada before the battle of Vimy Ridge — knew the mettle of her sons and daughters, shared their ideals as we are now sharing their service to humanity in the world war. Canada, in her war effort, has travelled further than we have gone. She has organized her home armies more effectually than we have yet done. In some of her policies—particularly in that of making the advertising of her war loans the nation's official business—she has shown more wisdom than we have shown.

But Canadians know that we always accomplish tasks which we undertake, and they know that we shall accomplish the marketing of the greatest bond issue in the world's history.

DURABLE WAR ORATORY.

(Manchester Guardian.)

How much of the war oratory that has flooded us since 1914 will live? Most of it has perished already; there are not even many single phrases that have stuck in the memory. Mr. Asquith's "We shall not sheathe the sword" is an exception. But the only war-time oratory which has the suggestion of a posterity about it is that of President Wilson. Such a phrase as "The World must be made safe for democracy" is already merged so completely into our national sentiment, has become the common idea of so many millions of Allied peoples, that we have ceased to attribute individual authorship to it, just because it now belongs to everybody. It is, of course, President Wilson's phrase, uttered in his address to Congress in April, 1917. And here are a few more of the President's epigrams that are likely to live:

"This is no war for amateurs."

"What I am opposed to is not the feeling of pacifists, but their stupidity."

"I believe in the ordinary man."

"There is something very fine in the spirit of the volunteer, but deeper than the volunteer spirit is the spirit of obligation."

And then, of course, there is the notable utterance beginning "Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit" — perhaps the most majestic and thunderous words ever uttered by a statesman in the midst of a great war.

EXPUGNING A LANGUAGE.

(Washington Star.)

The teaching of the German language in the public schools throughout the United States is being eliminated rapidly, according to an announcement made by the American Defence Society. Already fourteen states have abolished German from courses in public schools, and in sixteen other states a campaign to eliminate German is under way.

STORY OF THE RED CROSS.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

Through the efforts of Dr. Dunant, a Swiss physician, a conference of 14 nations was held at Geneva in 1864. Out of this came the Red Cross treaty of 1866 to ameliorate sufferings of war. Inspiration for this movement came from Florence Nightingale, born in Florence, Italy, May 12, 1820. Early in life she began a study of hospital conditions. During the Crimean she went to the front with a staff of 38 nurses. Her statue forms part of the Crimean group in Waterloo. But Clara Barton is mother of the American branch. A year younger than Florence Nightingale, she began her career in our Civil War, and then served through the Franco-German war. Through her the American Red Cross was formed in 1881. It was incorporated by act of Congress in 1900. She represented this country at the Geneva conference and induced changes in rules to permit relief beyond that of war. Sufferers from flood, famine, and fever have blessed her work. Of all achievements of history, there is no nobler monument to the work of woman than the Red Cross.

BUILDS RIVETLESS SHIP.

(New York Journal of Commerce.)

The first steel vessel built without rivets has just been launched, somewhere on the south coast of England. The launching took place in the presence of Lord Pirrie, the Controller General of Merchant Shipbuilding. The vessel was built in a shipyard operated by the inland waterways and docks section of the Royal Engineers, and her production may mark an epoch in the shipbuilding industry.

Instead of riveting and caulking the plates they are joined together in one process by electric welding. This means that the plates are held together temporarily by bolts, and that the joint is then submitted to local heat by means of an electric arc, so that the two plates are fused together.

Though the process itself is not new, as certain auxiliary work on ships has been done by electric welding in the past, considerable developments have been made in the last twelve months, and this is the first time that a vessel has been produced entirely by the new method. Its general adoption would speed up production, more particularly in the assembly of bulkheads, deck structure, and other interior work.

It is computed from the results obtained on this experimental vessel and other admiralty work that a saving of 20 per cent., or possibly 25 per cent., could be effected in both time and material.

BITTERNESS ALL GONE.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

In its welcome of the American troops, however, London was England. The whole bitterness of the American revolution passed so long ago and so completely out of the recollection of the country, that anybody may be led to wonder if it ever existed except in a few high places. The King who forced that revolution was a German in every way. The Queen mother, who incited him to his acts, by imploring him to be a King, was even more German than he was himself. The troops with which he endeavored to fasten his yoke upon the revolting colonies were largely Hessians, sold, after the manner of the Princes of Hesse, century after century, to the highest bidder for any use to which that bidder chose to put them. It is perfectly true that a section of the English Parliament, led by men like Lord North, out of loyalty to the King, and by doctrinaire Whigs like George Grenville, out of sheer narrowness of vision, sided with the monarch. But all that was best in England then struggled against the blindness of the policy to the very end. Lord Shelburne, whom years later Lord Beaconsfield was to place in the first rank of Georgian statesmen, did everything possible to bring about a reconciliation. Pitt, in many ways, the most prominent figure in British political history, openly proclaimed that if he had been an American he would have been a rebel too. Fox, with his marvellous eloquence, openly pronounced the eulogy of Richard Montgomery in the House of Commons.