

Public Opinion

INNOCENTS ABROAD.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

In Montreal the ambulance was summoned for a man supposed to be dead, but who turned out merely to be asleep. These Toronto folk should always carry their registration cards about with them.

THE SEA MURDER.

(Buffalo Commercial.)

The sinking by a German submarine of the British hospital ship Llandovery Castle was as dirty a piece of business as has soiled the hands of the Germans in this war. That is saying a lot, too.

SOME MONEY!

(Wall Street Journal.)

Six billion dollars, the amount of the next Liberty Loan, is a lot of money, but how much, few people can realize. This sum, converted into one-dollar bills and laid end to end, would make a strip of greenbacks 699,040 miles long, or enough to belt the earth at the equator just 23 times.

WHY EXPLAIN THE OBVIOUS?

(Christian Science Monitor.)

The First Battle of the Marne, the Battle of the Somme, the defense of Verdun, Ypres, Amiens, Rheims, and the approaches to Compiègne simply mean one thing, that the German Army's reputation as an invincible war machine is gone, never to return. "The belief in our famous training has become superfluous and false," says a German general wisely. "I shall explain," he continues. But why explain the obvious?

NEMESIS.

(Boston News Bureau.)

What shall it profit a German prince or general to drive in massy fury over a given number of square miles, in the form of an inevitable apex, if at the end an enemy as elusive as it is tenacious is still uncrushed, and if meanwhile the storm cloud of a new enemy grows on the horizon of doom?

That question must now be worrying the German command; eventually it should obsess the German army and the German people. Perhaps some of them already realize it, but still trust desperately in the outside chance of one of these desperate plunges, like a boxer's wild blow, achieving the knockout.

NOT TRUE SPORTS.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

William Heyliger, an American writer of boys' books, declares there is nothing in German literature that is parallel, either in quality or in aim, to the tales of sport, adventure, and school life, so common in England and America. Moreover, the game that depends upon skill and upon community spirit does not exist in Germany as a purely German game, and though cricket, football, and rowing have their devotees in the Fatherland, the gymnasium and the duel, which depend for their success on physical strength, set the social standards. As Mr. Heyliger sums it up: "The German has not been brought up to give the other fellow a fair chance. The whole war game must go on to the finish, fair play against foul, until Germany is shown that her sort of game is not worth the effort and the price." There is something after all, then, in the claim that football, cricket, and now baseball are going to win the war!

SEEING THE LIGHT.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

When the War Industries Board arranged to take over a Canadian factory which might be adapted to manufacture of picric acid, a southern senator remonstrated because the expenditure was to be made outside the country, whereas he asserted the work could be done just as well in the section he represented. He summoned the official of the board in charge, but to his surprise the war industries man replied he was too busy earning his dollar a year to come to the senator's office, and that if the latter desired information he would have to come to the board for it. The senator came, and he saw the light. Figures were set forth demonstrating that not only was the government securing a factory for \$500,000 which would cost \$5,000,000 to build in a southern state, but that it would be obtaining picric acid from the Canadian source eight months sooner than would be possible at a new plant. "Young man I apologize," the senator said. "That's good business."

SPOKESMEN FOR DEMOCRACY.

(Toronto Globe.)

David Lloyd George and Woodrow Wilson voice the determination and the terms of the Anglo-Saxon brotherhood.

REWARD FOR COLD FEET.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Captain Bartlett, of Arctic exploration fame, has been awarded the Back Grant for leadership in the polar regions, being thus the only man decorated for cold feet during the war.

THOSE FORWARD LOOKING JAPS.

(Commerce and Finance.)

A Japanese gentleman went into the Dixie Book Shop in Liberty street the other day and purchased a copy of every work Mr. Levy had in stock bearing upon government ownership and operation of properties.

Mr. Levy, in the course of their conversation, expressed surprise at the interest of the visitor in the subject.

"Why," said the Japanese gentleman, "should it surprise you? Government ownership of public utilities such as railroads, telephones and telegraphs is inevitable."

THE GLORY OF WAR.

(Atlantic Magazine.)

The glory of war stands out when you think of war, not as romance or duty or sacrifice or idea, but as work. Bill and Tommy and Jean and Hans in the trenches may curse at the diplomats who have brought them into the mess, grumble at the officers who lead them into death-traps, at the commissariat that underfeeds them, at the orderlies who come too late with their stretchers and morphine; but that is precisely the same way in which a man responds to his employer, his foreman, and his grocer and butcher, in peace-time. Few of us, in the normal life, relish the particular job set for us, but the job as a whole is something which will not admit of question. Suppose we do ask the men in the trenches why they are fighting and they cannot tell us why. What then? They are fighting because for the time being war is work.

PERFECTLY USELESS INFORMATION.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

The Guatemalan dollar is worth six cents.
Iskjuktukisjk is 4313 miles east of Moscow.
The temperature of the air 12 miles above the earth is 70 below zero.
An oak tree 60 feet high has 6,121,341 leaves.
There are no seeds in the Siamese grapefruit.
The fish of North America embrace 3263 species and 133 sub-species.
It takes 41 minutes of labor to care for and raise a bushel of corn.
Skunks never have asthma.
In the eighteenth century shoes were not made in rights and lefts and you could wear the same shoe on either foot.
Gas pipes can be made from glue.
The biting apparatus of a flea is one-twelfth the size of a needle.
Snakes have no eyelids.

TALK ABOUT HUSTLING.

(Commerce and Finance.)

Some of these fine days a bright young man with a fair stock of adjectives, and a talent for doing a fancy job of decoration with words will approach the subject of describing fittingly what some of the gentlemen of Uncle Sam's transport service do in the line of getting a ship fitted for a voyage.

This bare sketch may give an idea of what a wealth of material the bright man will have at his disposal:

A message from off shore announced that a certain steamship—one of the biggest ever built—was sighted and would be at a particular pier at such and such an hour, and that she would require among many other things 8,000 tons of coal, 60,000 gallons of fuel oil, so many tons of meat, etc., etc., etc.

Within 24 hours of her arrival the giant vessel had everything aboard and was racing to France. Incidentally she had more than 6,000 soldiers aboard.

CANADIAN SHIP NAMES.

(Quebec Telegraph.)

As ships are being launched from time to time in our various Canadian yards why is it that they are not given distinctively Canadian names in order to advertise our Dominion wherever they sail? If we are to have a Canadian mercantile marine it must breathe Canadian spirit.

ENTHUSIASM DOES IT.

(Forbes Magazine.)

It was Roosevelt you will recall, who, when asked while he was in the White House how he contrived to get through so much work, replied: "I like my job."

What has brought "Billy" Sunday his inordinate fame as a preacher?

What carried Peary to the North Pole?

What sustains Edison during his herculean day-and-night labors?

Are they not all radiant examples of enthusiasm? The Greeks described enthusiasm as a god within us.

Does not history show that, given enthusiasm, tasks apparently superhuman can be accomplished? Enthusiasm is a dynamo generating power within us.

The enthusiast pushes ahead, needing no "pull." The sluggard lags behind.

Just as surely as indifference and ignorance spell failure, enthusiasm and enlightenment spell success.

GERMAN EFFICIENCY.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

An American aviator, whose machine had been forced to land within the German lines and who was taken prisoner, returned a few days afterwards, to American headquarters, safe and sound, in his own machine.

After his capture he was taken before the commanding officer who informed him they were desirous of obtaining certain information regarding the allied forces and had decided to send him up in his own machine accompanied by a German officer who would shoot him instantly if he deviated from orders. Accordingly, he took his machine up, his German companion sitting beside him with a drawn revolver at his ribs.

While in the air he began to ruminate on the much over-rated "German efficiency;" for, as he said, "I had, of course, determined that the German observer should never return to his lines, even if it cost me my own life. I was thinking just how I could do it, when all at once I realized that the man beside me was not strapped in. I couldn't help chuckling as I looped-the-loop."

PAST AND PRESENT.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

There are few settings more appropriate than Mount Vernon for a speech on the present crisis. It was in Mount Vernon, as Mr. Wilson said so truly recently, "that Washington and his associates, like the Barons at Runnymede, spoke and acted, not for a class, but for a people." In that sentence, the President of the United States stated and illustrated the common basis of thought of the Anglo-Saxon race. What the world of the present day owes to the meetings of Washington and the American colonists, on the hills above the Potomac, those early Americans, themselves gathered from the cities and fields of England, owed to their common ancestors, who forced the Great Charter from John, on that island in the Thames, and those Barons of Thirteenth Century England owed, in their turn, to the men who had gathered round Alfred of Wessex, in his first unconscious efforts to make a world safe for democracy, which centered, partially, about the great Roman millenarium, which, for almost two thousand years, has stood in the midst of Londinium, or by that first church, on the banks of the Itchen, where to-day the mighty cathedral of Winchester rears itself against the surrounding hills of its Hampshire valley. What Alfred dreamed of for his West Saxons, what the Barons demanded for a united England, what Cromwell took for the Commons, what Washington rallied the American colonists to fight for, was one and the same thing. It was the idea of liberty raising itself, first against the disciples of the Hammer-God, in the forests of Wessex; then against the claims of the autocrat in the realm of England; then against the blending of autocracy in church and state, in the person of the man, Charles Stewart; and, finally, in the claim of a German King to dispose of his American colonies as his own property.