

## Public Opinion

### ADVICE TO IRELAND.

(Chicago Herald.)

Ireland ought to take another quick look at Belgium and dismembered Poland and jump into the game of beating Germany with more zeal than ever.

### HORRIBLE CRIME IN GERMANY.

(Nashville Southern Lumberman.)

Some particularly diabolical form of punishment will probably be devised for Prince Lichnowsky, who has been detected red-handed in the act of telling the truth.

### BRITAIN'S FIRST CEMENT BOAT.

England's first big concrete ship is 150 feet long, with a beam of 24½ feet and displaces 900 tons. Her carrying capacity is 400 tons. Compared to the Faith, the 5,000-ton concrete ship recently launched on the Pacific Coast of the United States, the British vessel is a rather small affair, but Lloyds has classed her as A-1.

### A 128 YEAR OLD VESSEL.

A little British sailing vessel the "Good Intent" carrying 68 tons of cargo and built 128 years ago, has just been sold for three times her original cost.

She was built of sturdy oak timbers taken from British men-of-war and is still in excellent condition. The vessel has undergone little change in construction during all these years.

### A LIFE SAVER.

(Wall Street Journal.)

Recently one of our boys in the front line trenches in France was hit directly over the heart by a bullet. Upon opening his khaki shirt, the doctor attending him discovered that he had only been bruised. After dressing the wound, one of the nurses looked into the shirt pocket of the wounded soldier and found a Bible and trench-mirror, both pierced. Although semi-conscious, the lucky man murmured: "The Bible has always been a life saver for me."

### SCOTCH SOLDIERS SINGING PSALMS.

(London Express.)

At a conference on church hymn singing, at St. Mary's, Primrose Hill, the vicar, the Rev. Duncan Jones, said he never heard such singing anywhere as he heard in billet services in tumble-down villages when Scottish boys used their hearts and their voices in rendering some of those Psalms which are so dear to them, and when the whole place was filled with the strains of "Dunfermline," or "St. Paul," "Duke Street," or "Wiltshire," they almost felt themselves back in Scotland.

### LINCOLN'S TONIC.

(The Congregationalist.)

In the most crucial period of the Civil War, Lincoln gathered with his stern-faced, gloomy secretaries to transact momentous business. He came in, picked up a book by Artemus Ward, and proceeded to read a chapter aloud. The atmosphere was electric with angry disapproval at this levity. "Gentlemen," he said, "why don't you laugh? With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh, I should die; and you need this medicine as much as I." Then he turned to his tall hat lying on the table near him and drew from it what Stanton afterward described as a "little white paper." It was the Emancipation Proclamation.

### DOES ADVERTISING PAY?

(Insurance Monitor.)

A. & F. Pears, the English soap makers, were spending about a quarter of a million dollars annually some fifteen years ago, and they were selling each year a good many million dollars' worth of soap. Everyone knew about Pears' soap—the name was familiar in the farthest corners of the globe, but the board of directors decided that they would get along without advertising because they were selling all that their factories could produce. They did no advertising during the following six months and in that six months lost 35 per cent of their total business. It cost them six and a half million dollars in additional publicity to get back where they had left off.

This shows how quickly the public forgets when advertising is withdrawn. It illustrates the need for constantly repeated advertising.

### A MISUSED TITLE.

(Buffalo Express.)

The Canadians are going to put the kibosh on titles. They shouldn't overlook the title "gentleman," which appears in their city directories following the names of wealthy fellows that don't work.

### OVERHEARD AT GROSSES HAUPTQUARTIER.

(New York Times.)

Ludendorff to Hindenburg—"Say, old pal, they will soon be calling you Behindenburg if you don't get another move on."

Hindenburg to Ludendorff: "They will soon be calling you Deludendorff if you don't plan a better than the last one."

### IN FOR A LICKING.

(New York World.)

Director-General of Shipping Schwab, speaking before Detroit shipbuilders said they were to play a prominent part in building ships faster than U-boats can sink them.

"The Kaiser," he added, "is due for the damndest licking any one ever got."

### THE DEATH PENALTY.

(Springfield Republican.)

Five states have abolished capital punishment and have life imprisonment as the penalty for murder, namely, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and Rhode Island. The following states have adopted electrocution as the mode of punishment: Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. In the states not named above, hanging still prevails.

### LANGUAGE IN THE ARMY.

(Letters to London Daily Mail.)

As a V.A.D. commandant who was in charge of a railway aid post in France in 1915, may I add my testimony to the marvellous control exercised by our soldiers in the matter of bad language? We were half-way between the firing line and the base and our special work was to feed and do a certain number of dressings for the wounded men who travelled by improvised hospital trains. It is impossible to describe what some of these men suffered, and yet during the five days of the Loos push I never once heard a man use a bad word. Their conduct made us all proud to be British women.

### THE HILLS OF GOD.

(Los Angeles Times.)

They are not only in Paradise, they are also in Southern California. Just now the rolling foothills are a study in green and gold, and at a distance the little mountains appear to be all gold, for the positive yellow of the mustard blooms ar fitting mediums for the reflection of old Sol's shining hair that falls in copious beauty through 92,000,000 miles of ether upon the emerald earth. There is no more beautiful sight in the world than the foothills of Southern California in springtime, unless it is the golden-brown loveliness of those same hills later on in the year. "I believe that the commonest blackberry briar would adorn the parlors of heaven," sings Whitman, and Mrs. Browning declares that—

"Earth's crammed with heaven,

And every common bush affire with God!"

### GERMAN BABIES.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

It seems a long time—so much has happened since—since a distinguished American denounced race suicide. War has made the subject even more vital. Quite naturally, the Germans are the first to attempt to deal with it by law. A commission which has been looking into the matter suggested that marriage be made compulsory at the age of twenty and that married couples who have no children shall be punished. The German idea of the State makes such legislation much more practicable in Germany than it would be in almost any other country. Some figures published in England, based on German information, show that there were 40 per cent fewer births in Germany in 1916 than in 1913 and that the infant mortality, though not alarming, is greater than it ought to be. If the sacrifice of German lives in the war is as serious as it is represented, it is plain that Germany will face a peace with a sadly diminished population. That makes the question of the birth rate a momentous one.

### GERMAN MONOPOLY TO GO.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

British and French publishing houses will issue guide books after the war for European countries, thus cutting in on Baedeker's monopoly. In fact when peace comes it will be hard for Germany to induce anyone to take her for a guide in anything.

### HUMAN "NATER."

(Los Angeles Times.)

Furs were never higher in the history of the trade, and never has there been such a demand, according to the reports of dealers. Woman nature is exemplified in the fur business. When furs are cheap women do not care for them, but when they rise in price they are at once demanded. But how about man nature?

### WHY NOT?

(Toronto Star.)

A way of accomplishing the desired end was found by the Government in dealing with the packers in limiting their profits to 11 per cent on the capital invested. This was a thoroughgoing measure. It meant business and drove straight to the point. Having taken this course with the packers, why not cut across lots also and deal with the flour millers in the same direct way?

### HARD POUNDING.

(Kansas City Times.)

"Hard pounding, gentlemen," said the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo, "we shall see who can pound longest."

In that sentiment is the keynote of the war for the Allies. The side that can stand punishment and then come back strongest is the side that will win the final victory. Can there be the slightest doubt that the nations that are fighting for freedom are the nations that can meet the Duke of Wellington's test?

### SIR WALTER SCOTT'S OAKS.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Some of the Abbotsford oaks are being cut down for war purposes, and it may be said of them that they are fulfilling the purpose for which they were planted. Sir Walter Scott, writing to Joanna Baillie, in November, 1818, says that part of the pleasure of planting lies in the reflection that "your very acorn may send its future ribs of oak to future victories like Trafalgar." Times change, and with them methods of construction, but Scotland's Homer would find himself very much in tune with the temper of the country which is cutting down its trees to-day.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CLERGY.

(Atlantic.)

Who are these men, the clergy? Are they all fiery-tongued orators, saturated with wisdom of the ages, commanding and swaying vast assemblages of people? Are they luxurious and isolated devotees of idle reflection, reveling in the psychological and spiritual joys of meditation in a garden sheltered by high walls from the turmoil without? They are neither. The clergy to-day are hard-working, underpaid, and long-suffering plodders, living lives of sacrifice in every corner of the land, and sharing the lesser fragments of the crusts that fall from the wealth of our prosperity. With every conceivable obstacle in their paths, in the midst of a movie-crazed public, and a golf-distracted and motor-mad society, they do their duty humbly and quietly.

### PERSHING AS A SCHOOL TEACHER.

(Philadelphia Ledger.)

A tale which throws light on the character of General Pershing, America's commander-in-chief in Europe, is told by an old friend. The winter previous to his entering West Point, Pershing taught the Prairie Mound district school and learned to apply his first discipline. He made a success of the term and only one event marred his stay there. This was an attack made upon him one day by an irate father whose girl he had reprimanded. Pershing had told the girl to remain in at recess, but she slipped out and ran home. Her father came back on the run with a revolver. Pershing coolly walked out and asked him what he wanted. The man replied he had come to settle with him for rebuking his daughter. The young school teacher picked up a poker then laid it down, threw off his coat, and told his assailant to come on and they would settle things with their fists.

As Pershing turned his back to lay the poker down, the girl screamed to her father: "Shoot him now, dad, while his back's turned!"

The man instead put away his gun and came on, but not to fight, and they settled the matter without bloodshed.

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