

Public Opinion

THE DIPLOMATIC WAY. (Springfield Republican.)

No doubt Count Luxburg, who suggested that if Argentine ships were sunk all on board be put to death, will be asking for a safe conduct.

YALE MEN AND THE WAR. (McGill Daily.)

Yale opened its 218th academic year on Thursday, September 26, with its registration cut by war conditions from 3,300 to 2,000, or slightly more than one-third.

A CONSIDERATE CORRESPONDENT. (Toronto Globe.)

There is a warm spot in our hearts for the man who wrote to say that he had written a letter dealing at great length with the political situation and had then torn it up because he sympathized with the editors.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE. (Buffalo Commercial.)

Great Britain limits the height of women's shoes to save leather. That is not done here, we presume, because there is no actual shortage of leather, only an artificial scarcity designed to increase profits already excessive.

HARD TO GET MONEY.

The seventh German war loan is about to be launched, and its terms are in curious contrast to those of the preceding issues. Under the new conditions subscribers must pay 10 per cent, down and are allowed from ten to twenty years to make up the balance. This means that if a Teuton citizen subscribed \$100 he would have to pay only \$10 at once and could spread the remainder over twenty years. Truly, Germany is finding it as hard to finance the war as to secure men to carry it on.

PEACE CASUALTIES. (The Ground Hog.)

Figures from the war in Europe show that 6 per cent of the men engaged in the artillery are killed; that 15 per cent of those engaged in infantry are killed.

Recent figures also show that 35 per cent of the babies born in the most congested district of Chicago die before they are a year old.

All of which means that it is better to be a soldier in war than a baby born in the congested district of Chicago. This condition is due to high and privately appropriated land values.

THEIRS IS THE SACRIFICE. (New York World.)

Theirs is the sacrifice, theirs the service no home support, however swift and generous, can match. Sailor and soldier, volunteer and selected man, doctor and nurse and stretcher-bearer, they are going out to such vigils and sufferings of cold and exposure and such horrors of combat as imagination balks to paint. They are risking their lives with a song. They risk the tortures by which German ideals of might-made right have transcended the stake-fires of the Sioux. They see the splendor of the autumn, and dare a lifetime in blindness. They glory in their strength, and go to meet the agonies of poison gas, or maiming worse than death.

MAUDE CAN FIGHT. (New York Times.)

This is a victory won by strategy, dash and determination, a victory of the old-fashioned kind of fighting, a victory won in Maude's own way. Followed by anxiety rather than hope, this General set out on his campaign in a region sinister with repeated disaster to the British arms; an ill-omened region. The hopes that followed his forerunners, but did not follow him, he has more than fulfilled on every occasion. He has met with no defeats, only with victories, victories won with that satisfying thoroughness which leaves nothing to be desired. His plans seem to be perfect and are always carried out to the letter. Whenever he strikes, he strikes like a thunderbolt. This accomplishment of his, the capture of an enemy army, has no precedent on the side of the Allies since the war began and in the fact that it was won by sheer strategy, combined with the vigor of action that is always his, it has no precedent on either side, Maude is reminiscent of Wolfe.

IMPERSONATION. (Washington Post.)

It is said to be the death penalty in Germany to impersonate an army officer, but so far the Crown Prince has escaped.

SKY-ROCKETING. (Charleston Evening Post.)

The suspense of watching for bread-and-coal prices to fall gets more and more thrilling.

THE BREAKS AND BULGES. (Engineering and Mining Journal.)

The man who in Stock Exchange gambling indulges should buy on the breaks and sell out on the bulges, but be sure that you do not make any mistakes as to which are the bulges and which are the breaks.

THE TRAITOR'S CHAIR. (Baltimore Star.)

Cincinnati has reverted to the old stocks in order to punish those who utter seditious language. The stocks are placed in the centre of the city's largest park and bear in bold lettering: "These are for traitors." Good for the Ohio city.

A MUCH NEEDED STEP. (Toronto Globe.)

It is reported that the Dominion Government will prohibit the manufacture of liquor, including beer. Such a step would enormously aid the food conservation policy. Not only would it save the grain wasted by breweries and distilleries, but it would remove the objection of many persons to signing the food pledges.

"WILLY" THEN AND NOW. (New York Herald.)

When Russia's fleet was bottled up in Port Arthur harbor with Togo on watch outside the Kaiser was profuse in urging upon the Tsar the wisdom of sending his ships outside to give battle. Now that his own fleet is bottled up at Kiel, with the British on watch outside, the Kaiser insists that the first duty of war ships is to surround themselves by dry land, and stay surrounded.

IN FAVOR OF SINGLE TAX. (Square Deal, Toronto.)

"The Southern Cross," the organ of the Irish Roman Catholics of the Argentine, has for almost a year been carrying on an educational campaign in favor of the Single Tax, every issue containing one or more able articles. It is cheering to find a religious paper realizing so clearly the relation between social organization and morals. Our Canadian churches have not yet had the courage or insight to face fundamental social issues.

EARL GREY. (Canadian Co-operator.)

Earl Grey was a co-operator in the true and complete sense. While he had no need of the savings and financial advantages accruing from co-operative effort, he had a fine vision of the co-operative commonwealth. He saw as clearly as any of his less exalted fellow-citizens that the co-operative interpretation of life would inevitably lead to a general improvement of the human race, and the solution of social and economic problems.

GERMAN ESPIONAGE. (Christian Science Monitor.)

There was, apparently, no place where the German spy was not in 1914-15, and the world was asked, by the admirers of German efficiency, to stand at respectful attention and be properly amazed.

But, on the whole, German espionage has been characterized by clumsiness and stupidity. Its operations have been detected, exposed and rendered ridiculous by the secret service of a country that has never had any particular respect for espionage, and that has less respect than ever for it to-day. There is not a single instance, in which the protective secret service of the United States has been called on to contend with the aggressive German espionage system, where the latter, with all its pretensions to efficiency, has not, if we may borrow a phrase from Colonel Roosevelt, been "beaten to a frazzle."

NATIONAL SERVICE LINE. (Chicago Herald.)

Every productive industry is on the battle-line to-day and every man who quits it without good cause is a military deserter.

STATUS QUO ANTE? (Wall Street Journal.)

A Belgian definition of the "status quo ante" would include the restoration of the age of miracles and the resurrection of the dead.

OUR SIR DOUGLAS. (London Daily News.)

Having occasion yesterday, writes a correspondent, to examine the service record of a soldier who enlisted in a cavalry regiment some 30 years ago, I was attracted by the bold and decisive signature of the officer who certified the entries as correct. It was "D. Haig, Lt."

LONDON'S NEW LORD MAYOR. (Hamilton Herald.)

Speaking of Charles A. Hanson, the new Lord Mayor of London, it has been frequently stated in Canadian papers that he was once a stockbroker in Montreal. But another fact in his Canadian career is not so well known—that he was, some forty years ago, a Methodist minister in Ontario.

BRITAIN ON THE JOB. (Toronto Globe.)

The British are fighting in Belgium, France, Austria, Persia, Mesopotamia, Palestine, South Africa, and a few other places that have escaped the attention of some of the pessimists, but are painfully well known to the foe.

BEGGARS ARE CHOOSERS. (Southern Lumberman.)

The experiment of introducing corn as human food has not met with much success in England. The board of guardians of Strood, a town in Kent, bought \$150 worth of corn to be served to the paupers in the workhouse, but they refused to eat it.

Corn, or "maize" as it is called in England, is regarded as fit only for cattle. An English writer surmises: "When this food was offered to the paupers, they probably thought they were being classed as cattle, and for that reason they indignantly asserted their manhood."

It seems clear that the thing was handled in the wrong way. Corn on the cob, well-buttered, should have been offered first to the rich.

"BACK TALK" PERMISSIBLE. (Christian Science Monitor.)

The right of the telephone subscriber to "talk back" to a telephone operator, in case of poor service, has been upheld by a ruling of the Public Service Commission of Missouri. This is a right that never should have been questioned, in Missouri, or anywhere else. There is nothing so sacred about the telephone that it cannot properly be held to the proper discharge of its functions, and to the proper fulfillment of its contracts. Of course, protests over the wire should be couched in language such as is deemed legitimate when people are talking face to face, but that is all the manager or operator of a poor telephone service has a right to expect. There must sometimes be "back talk," if corporate imposition is not to be licensed.

IN ANOTHER FORTY YEARS. (Kansas City Times.)

Only forty years ago the telephone was spoken of in the Kansas City Times as "the marvellous new invention." In the exposition held there in September, 1877, a telephone was displayed in Art Hall, and that was the first time Kansas City had seen one. Only forty years since the telephone was introduced, and now they talk through a wire from Boston to San Francisco; and even the wire is beginning to be obsolete, for they are communicating without wires across the oceans. Forty years from to-day there may appear an item from the papers of 1917 telling of the efforts to get enough gas to cook with, and electric light at a decent price, and some commentator of that day may say: In this day of radio light and heat free as air to all it is almost impossible to realize that only forty years ago people were dependent upon gas pumped through pipes underground; and upon coal; and the streets were disfigured with poles and wires for conducting electric current.