

THE OBSERVER

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AMERICANS IN THE EUROPEAN WAR.

In one of the notes which a foreign government has sent to the United States the assertion is made that there are a great many Americans fighting on the side of the allies, the insinuation being that America is against the Central powers, because there are Americans in the ranks of the allies. The United States government is not directly blamed for this, but the impression is left that the United States government is at fault which it is not.

Foreign governments cannot understand the exercise of individualism by Americans. They cannot realize that an American is a free agent, which permits him to expose his body to shot and poison gas fumes, starvation, cold and all the horrors of war, if he so desires. There have always been soldiers of fortune, and soldiers who could not restrain themselves from fighting for a cause which to them seemed to be of sufficient importance to induce them to face the dangers of battle. In the war of the rebellion there were Canadians whose heart and soul were in the cause of the north. The United States government cannot prevent its citizens from going to fight in any of the armies with which they are in sympathy.

According to reports that come to us from Canada, the Canadian 97th is composed of 1,200 officers and privates all of whom were born in the United States. Since the war broke out, many Americans have been fighting in the ranks of the allies. The French army having an American legion that has become famous for the desperate valor of its men. Doubtless too, many Americans are fighting for the Central emperors. We know from frequent casualty news that comes through the lines and over the wires to America, that Americans

have been wounded and killed. The American legion just completed in Canada with men from this side of the border is pointed out by Canada papers. The Toronto Globe says that this is reciprocity of a proper character and states that military achieves at Washington record some 48,000 Canadian enlistments during the years of the civil war and tell of more than 18,000 Canadian casualties in defense of American citizenship and for the integrity of the American union.

CHANGING COMMANDERS.

The retirement of Gen. Sir John French from command of the English armies in France caused no surprise. It has been understood for some time that the criticisms of Earl Kitchener have centered around the criteria of army officials surrounding Gen. French. This faction is dissatisfied with the manner in which the war of force has been conducted.

In the interest of harmony the retirement of Gen. French at his own request is a good thing. Those who have been want to criticize the apparent lack of initiative on the part of the English army in France will be placated and it is thought Gen. Douglas Haig, the hardy Scot, who succeeds to the command, will infuse a lot of enthusiasm into the continental army. Gen. Haig has been highly commended for his brilliant achievements thus far in the war in the capacity of a subordinate commander.

King George has conferred upon Gen. French the dignity of viscount and field marshal, and he will be made commander of the home army in England. Gen. Haig won brilliant honors as hero of the retreat from Mons in the earliest days of the war and of the British attacks upon the German right wing during the battle of the Marne. Both generals are very popular in England, but with different factions. The present change is said to be acceptable to both parties and will bring about a better feeling between the war office and the army on the continent.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT.

The latest returns of the census bureau, just published, show the United States to be the healthiest place on the face of the earth.

According to the figures for 1914 the death rate in this country is now 13.6 per 1000 of estimated population, the lowest death rate on record.

The result is gathered only from statistics from registration districts. Unfortunately all communities do not register accurately the vital statistics, but 25 states and the District of Columbia do. From these sources and from 32 cities in states that do not keep complete statistics the census bureau's death rate returns were gathered. Incomplete as the returns are it

drives home two points:

First, the need, now greater than ever of the fight to prevent disease. Already it is showing results in the saving of lives—and now that it is proved good, keep up the fight.

THE EFFICIENCY OF AGE.

A septuagenarian, writing in the Boston Transcript, makes an eloquent plea for specialization in the "hygienic and medical treatment of old people. If pediatrics was not geriatrics? There is specialization in the treatment of children, why not specialization in the treatment of the aged? Do not the late, as well as the early years of life demand study, he asks, and will they not amply reward such consideration? There has been, he points out, surprisingly little written by medical experts on this subject—a great field awaits investigation and exploitation. And he continues:

I venture to assert that we old folks deserve more attention than we have received hitherto, and that, if we can get it, in years to come, we shall richly repay such increased rapetic and hygienic study. In centuries past, indeed, valuable contributions to the world's thought and the world's work have been made by men over sixty years of age. Witness such sporadic examples as Sophocles writing his Aedipus at eighty; Michael Angelo beginning his "Last Judgment" at sixty two and working on St. Peter's from sixty seven till his death at eighty-nine; Titian painting characteristic and powerful pictures in his nineties; Goethe finishing "Faust" when past eighty; Victor Hugo bringing out "Les Miserables" in his sixty first year, and writing charming verses in his seventies.

There is a summary of evidence not to be taken lightly. It was hardly necessary, however, to go back of the present day. Time was when great soldiers, for instance, ceased to be great soldiers when they passed the prime of life. Hannibal was 46 when he was defeated by Scipio; the conquests of Alexander the Great ended with his thirty third birthday; Napoleon's career came to an end at Waterloo when he was 46, and his conqueror's last battle was fought when he, too, rounded the forty-sixth milestone. But, today, in Europe, the great war is being fought by such men as Joffre, Pau, Kitchener, Von Hindenburg, Mackenson, all 60 or older, and Sir John French, replaced within the last few days, is past 60.

Just where, then, does there seem to be any definite need for "geriatrics"? Age, apparently, is able to take care of itself. It needed, in these crowded times of ours, only a chance to show what it could do. And, the chance appearing, it has shown us. What it has shown, moreover, has been convincing. It may be surmised, too, that the man who is on the shady side of 50 or 60 will hereafter find his application for a position meeting with more respectful consideration. For a while, there was a senseless prejudice against men over 40. Efficiency as a science, being somewhat new, made too much of youthfulness and not nearly enough of the wisdom that comes with years and experience. Now, however, that error is correcting itself abreast of the times, to live in the present, and not in the past to find itself, now shelved, but in demand.

Great Britain must pay the United States \$2,000,000,000 in 1916, and still some people think they have trouble when they owe a grocery bill of \$2.

G. Bernard Shaw says America ought to build 32 dreadnoughts. He must have been reading some of Roosevelt's tales.

Strange the Dardanelles blockade has been on these many moons, but Turkish cigarettes are as plentiful as ever.

Mr. Bryan, it will be observed, continues to be President Wilson's woolen underwear.

A few more notes, and the Austria-Hungarian rhapsody will become a discord.

Look out for the investments that are gilt-edged—for so is a gold brick.

While a woman can subsist on refreshments, a man demands grub.

If you want Flattery to stick spread it on a man.

Orders Dance and Goes to Jail.

Marshfield, Or., Jan. 7.—Because Archie Madden, an old man, became drunk and ordered Scotty Lowe, a croupy, to dance to the tune of his six-shooter, he must spend the next six months in jail. This is the decision of Judge John S. Coke, Madden, who lives on a little truck farm near here with Lowe, declared he did not know the gun was loaded and that he had tried first to make his dog dance and when the dog refused, tried the experiment on Lowe.

COMMANDMENTS WRITTEN BY WIFE

Woman Tells How Married Couples Should Behave.

HUSBAND "MEANEST MAN"

Story Told in Divorce Court of Death of Child Brings Tears to the Eyes of All—Sheffield, Defending Action, Says Book by His Wife Liked Him, as He Was the Villain.

Asserting that her husband, Justice Sheffield, Harvard graduate and once wealthy New York lawyer, was not only far outclassed by the old "Roman Terror," but that he was "the meanest man God ever gave life to," Mrs. Irene Sheffield continued her fight for a divorce before Vice Chancellor Vivian M. Lewis in Jersey City, N. J.

A set of "ten commandments" for married men and another set for women figured prominently during the hearing. They were produced by Mrs. Sheffield in response to a demand for them by her husband's counsel. She said she wrote them herself long before she and Sheffield separated, but did not publish them until some time afterward, when she needed funds. Here are the commandments:

- FOR MEN. 1. Thou shalt keep thy past unto thyself. 2. Thou shalt not scoff. 3. Thou shalt be a careful kisser. 4. Remember to keep holy thy marriage vow. 5. Remember thy wife to sing her praises. A dull husband is a discouragement unto the gods. Honor thy wife and all her bills. 6. Remember thy mother-in-law to keep her guessing. A wise mother-in-law loves a cheerful liar. 7. Thou shalt not steal a march unto thy club. 8. Thou shalt not toy with danger, though verily a live impulse has low voltage, domestic boredom beaten to a frazzle. 9. Thou shalt choose thy brand of tobacco, likewise thy experience, according to thy income. 10. Thou shalt be a man dependable as the best thoroughbred as a racer, mellow as old wine, constant as thy club dues; then of a surety will favor cling to thee as Methen to an old oak.

- FOR WOMEN. 1. Thou shalt not mope. 2. Thou shalt keep thy temper to thyself. 3. Thou shalt not bore thy husband. 4. Remember to keep unboiled his many socks. Six days shalt thou do as thou please, and on the seventh shalt thou remember his linen. 5. Honor thy husband and let him do exactly as he pleases. 6. Thou shalt not ask him any questions. What he wants you to know he will tell you. 7. Thou shalt not complain. Verily a complaining wife is worse than— 8. Thou shalt not steal thy husband's hobbies. 9. Thou shalt obey him—sometimes. Uncertainty has its charms. 10. Thou shalt be fresh and sweet and dainty as a shower bouquet, for lingerie is more to be desired than rubies, and a good cook above government bonds.

Frivolous Sayings, She Avers. Mrs. Sheffield was closely questioned by her husband's counsel as to whether she had not based her "commandments" entirely upon her own life. She denied that this was so. She repudiated the sentiments of some, saying they were merely generalities which she thought of at the time.

"They were only frivolous sayings," remarked Mrs. Sheffield. "Did you consider it was such when you wrote, 'A dull husband is a discouragement unto the gods?'" asked Sheffield's counsel. "I did not mean my husband when I wrote that," answered Mrs. Sheffield. "My husband is not dull. He is brilliant, but he does not make the best of his brains."

Recital Causes Tears. Mrs. Sheffield then told about her trouble with her husband over their son, Nelson. She said the little fellow was taken away from her, and after much trouble she located him, only to have him taken away again.

"I learned he was in a hospital in Jersey City dying," she said. "His father had insisted upon his being given cold baths and taking long walks too soon after having the measles. I rushed to the hospital and got there just as my boy passed away. My husband got there just before me."

"What did you do?" asked Mr. Lane. "I stayed at the hospital for more than an hour," was the reply. "But what were you doing?" asked the lawyer. "Why, I just held the body of my little boy, cold in death, close to my bosom. I"— But Mrs. Sheffield could not go on. She broke down and wept bitterly. At this point there were few dry eyes in the courtroom.

Mr. Lane questioned Mrs. Sheffield concerning the characters in her novel "The Golden Hollow," the sale of which was suppressed by her husband after but 1,000 copies had been sold. Sheffield told the publishers, so it was said, that he was the villain and that if they continued to sell the book there would be a suit for libel.

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The Next Number of the 1915-16 Redpath Lyceum Course under the Auspices of the Neighborhood Club will present William Owen. Aply supported by a complete cast in "The Servant in the House". A Full Dramatic Production by America's Leading Actor, of the Most Remarkable Play in the English Language. 9 P. M. Saturday, Jan. 15th. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. General Admission \$1.00. (Rear seats in the balcony can be secured at the door for 50c). Reserved Seats on Sale at Van Buren's Thursday January 13th. Season tickets must be presented at door with Reservations.

The Careful Man asks you... are you thinking of... after earning money for which you worked hard, to waste it in foolish extravagance? Put some in the Bank. START RIGHT NOW TO LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE RIGHT. ARE YOU FACING AN OLD AGE OF POVERTY? IF YOU ARE EARNING MONEY PUT AS MUCH OF IT AS YOU CAN IN THE BANK EACH PAY DAY. YOU WILL BE HAPPY WHEN YOU SEE YOUR BALANCE GROW AND SEE YOUR MONEY PILE UP SO IT CAN REALLY "PROTECT" YOUR OLD AGE. START RIGHT NOW. BANK WITH US. WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST ON TIME DEPOSITS. La Grande National Bank. LA GRANDE, OREGON. Capital \$200,000.00 Surplus \$50,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00. Fred J. Holmes, President. F. L. Meyers, Cashier. C. C. Penington, Vice President. E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers. DIRECTORS: Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, J. F. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. S. Brownson, H. E. Coolidge, A. Bickland, A. T. Hill, F. L. Meyers.