

THE OBSERVER

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AMERICA FIRST.

The cosmopolitan composition of humanity in the United States accounts for the partisanship seen in different localities caused by the war. It is next to impossible for some people to refrain from showing their preferences and hopes as to the contesting nations.

When these naturalized Americans are put to the test, if need be, they will be expected to stand for America first, as they should.

There can be only one country for every citizen of the United States and that is the United States.

If this country should become embroiled with any of the foreign belligerents, now or ten years from now, the United States will expect every citizen of the United States to do his duty.

The United States has given asylum to thousands of men who had to get out of their fatherland because they were not wanted there, or because conditions here were more inviting than those at home, and from these men Uncle Sam will expect, as he has a right to expect, their unswerving support of this country.

Every man who acts the traitor in time of his country's crisis will be a marked man.

There can be no half way business about it.

It must be America first.

The issue cannot be dodged.

It will be America first, or America will know the reason why, and apply the remedy.

A NEW WORK FOR WOMEN.

The ways in which women have been required to help in the various

countries which are involved in the European war are many and the results achieved by them are manifold, but the most unusual appeal is that made recently both in England and in Canada. Girls are asked to discourage the attentions of men who fail to attend recruiting meetings and enlist for the fighting in the trenches.

man himself it would be hard to imagine anything quite so difficult as this. High sounding patriotic axioms are well enough in times of peace, but it is another matter when the proposition takes the phase that it has now assumed in the countries mentioned. It is not so hard to passively sustain a wound as to invite and urge, according to most standards, women "left behind" in the past have been so left because they could not help themselves. The men simply went to war and there was nothing for women to do but say farewell. Instead, the women are now asked to compel the men to go and bear arms by insisting that their presence at home is not desired.

This is modernizing, with a vengeance, the old Roman mother's command, "With your shield or on it."

NATIVES ARE GAINING.

The war has simplified the problem of assimilating aliens so far as mere numbers are concerned. We are getting fewer immigrants than for many years. The net gain in the year ending June 30, 1915, was only 50,000 instead of the usual half million or more. With the current of migration running so heavily the other way, owing to immigrants returning home for military service and other reasons connected with the war, it is likely that the present fiscal year will show an actual immigration deficit.

We had reached the crest of the immigration wave in 1910, when the percentage of foreign born residents rose to 14.7. After that there was a steady drain due to the Italian and Balkan wars and then the present war. In the four years, it is estimated that the net gain of immigrants was no more than 1,000,000 altogether. In that period the percentage of alien born fell to 14.5. At the beginning of 1916, it is probably 14.1. If the war lasts for another year or two, the foreign born percentage may drop as low as 13.5, where it stood in 1900.

All this means an easing of the tremendous immigrant pressure that we have felt for a decade and a half. It means a bigger surplus of native Americanism. It means less competition in the labor market, less expense for the schools and for charitable and penal institutions, less trouble in all the ways by which our nation tries to absorb its raw material. It enables the country to concentrate on the task of turning into genuine citizens those who have been with us for years but

whose assimilation has lagged because of neglect and indifference.

The one advantage of this season of the year is the fact that the nerve destroying exhaust of the motorcycle is not doing a continuous performance.

Probably nothing bores a man more than to have another man begin an explanation of something that he himself was just going to explain.

While the benefit of the auto and telephone are generally recognized as a great factor in the growing development of farming it is only at infrequent intervals that anything has been said about the part good roads is playing in the improved conditions.

Lillian Russell says: "For a red nose, drink plenty of water." But, who wants a red nose.

We are again quite chummy with the coal man. Begins to look as if we were going to get credit.

Remember the man who used to get rich by taking a pencil and paper and figuring out the profits of a poultry farm?

As a nation we are young, but no one can say that the youngster hasn't acquired many kinds of experience rapidly.

Poverty has its compensations, too; for the youth who has to scratch for a living doesn't get time to sow wild oats.

Those who don't put enough stamps on their letters probably regard it as a partial post.

Marrying a man to reform him is like making an omelet out of a bad egg.

"Protest and Prepare" may become a national slogan.

It's the coal that isn't paid for that burns the fastest.

Still Making Christmas for Soldiers. Rome, Jan. 2.—(By Mail)—Princess Yolanda is just finishing her task of playing Santa Claus to all the wounded soldiers in Rome. In the hospitals where this beautiful fourteen year old daughter of Italy's King could not appear in person there are plenty of Christmas reminders of her activity. For months the Princess Yolanda worked with all her royal fourteen years of enthusiasm for the Christmas trees for wounded soldiers. In-

deed she was Chairman of the Christmas tree committee composed of young women of the aristocracy whose thought and care it was to see that every hospital for the wounded was made bright and Christmasy. With what fervor the Princess Yolanda worked is evidenced by the wonderful Christmas trees laden with gifts which gladden these havens for Italy's brave sons of battle.

The Royal family of Italy in a way transferred all its famed domesticity to these guests within their gates, for among the hospitals the one in the Quirinal is regarded as the especial property of the royal children. When the Princesses Mafalda and Giovanni had birthday celebrations and the Marionette Theatre from down town was transferred to the Quirinal, all the wounded soldiers who were able to walk were invited in to see the birthday performance. They gave three cheers for their royal hostesses and the two little princesses were the happiest among them all.

The Crown Prince regards the wounded as his proteges. This Christmas, tinged with sorrow on account of the absence of the King and the horrors of war, was given over to the soldiers. Last year the royal family, noted for its domestic simplicity, was not enlivened at Christmas on account of the serious condition of the Queen. The new princess was born the twenty-seventh of December. This year what they lacked in the intimate home festivities they gained by seeing the King's soldiers happy.

The Christmas trees with the royal Princess playing Santa Claus, bear gifts of cigars and cigarettes, cigar cases, watches, books, chocolates, pipes, handkerchiefs, all sorts of things, most of which the Princess herself selected. Not only the hospital in the Quirinal and the one in the Villa Marguerita where the Queen Mother is playing a real Mrs. Santa Claus to her wounded boys, but in every sanatorium in Rome where the wounded are Christmas cheer and festivity even at this late day, gives a homey feeling to the fellows who are far from their own homes.

In every Italian town and city the same Christmas cheer is reigning, the Christmas trees are glowing for the benefit of the wounded heroes. And the royal family, the lovely and gentle Queen Helena, the handsome Crown Prince, the Princesses Mafalda and Giovanni are not leaving the honors to Yolanda despite her title of head of the Christmas trees for the wounded committee. Prince Humbert says it's a lot more fun to see the soldiers happy than to be happy all alone.

Fighting Man Well Remembered. BY WILBUR S. FORREST. London, Jan. 6.—(By Mail)—Jack Langford has gone back to the North Sea to sweep up some more mines. Those in the United States who will be particularly interested in hearing this are the skipper of the barkentine Black Ader, Hawaii to Portland; a certain train crew running between

Portland and Seattle, a restaurant keeper in Cheyenne, Wyoming; a German-American justice of the peace at Las Vegas, New Mexico; a turnkey also at Las Vegas who may still be stiff from a beating he suffered at Jack's hands; and certain roustabouts who make their home amid the shipping at Galveston. Langford, a stalwart Australian, has returned to his job sweeping up mines in the North Sea after a leave of absence. The leave was specially granted so that he might probably celebrate during the holidays the passage of a year crammed full of adventure. On Jan. 1, 1915 Langford was hoeing pineapples on a plantation near Hilo, Hawaii. On Jan. 3 he was en route to Portland, Ore., as an able seaman in the forecabin of the bark Black-Adler. On Feb. 14 he was riding the rods from Portland to Seattle, and six days later he changed care at Cheyenne, Wyoming. On Feb. 17 occurred the first interruption in his trip Londonward. A railroad detective nabbed him at Las Vegas, New Mexico. A German-American justice of peace gave him fourteen days in jail when he said he was en route to England to fight. On Feb. 18 Langford was on his way again, having committed violent assault upon his turnkey. On March 1st he landed in Galveston and shipped aboard the cotton steamer Jevington, bound for Franco. On March 20, the Jevington reached Marseilles after fleeing from a submarine, and Langford deserted. On April 2 he arrived in London and exactly three months after quitting the pineapple fields enlisted in the British navy. Langford's adventures aren't over, he said before he left London. Only a few days ago the trawler on which he was working struck a mine and was sunk. The crew was saved and transferred to another minesweeper.

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