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A PEOPLES' WAR

"The great fact that stands out above all the rest is that this is a Peoples' War, a war for freedom and justice and self-government amongst all the nations of the world, a war to make the world safe for the peoples who live upon it and have made it their own, the German people themselves included; and that with us rests the choice to break through all these hypocrisies and patent cheats and masks of brute force and help set the world free, or else stand aside and let it be dominated a long age through by sheer weight of arms and the arbitrary choices of self-constituted master, by the nation which can maintain the biggest armies and the most irresistible armaments—a power to which the world has afforded no parallel and in the face of which political freedom must wither and perish."—Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

RUSSIA FALLING BEHIND.

Distressing developments in Russia are reported have occurred. The facts are said to be concealed in Washington. Probably on the theory that the Germans do not know what is going on in Russia. This is childish. The "distressing developments" in Russia were caused by German agents and German money. The Kaiser receives daily reports from his secret agents; no doubt the Kaiser is more familiar with the Russian situation than any man alive today. It is his one card. If Russia stiffens up her backbone right now, it will soon be all off with the German autocracy.

When the governor of the state and the State Highway Commission entered the state from California in their automobile they were searched just as if they were bootleggers? This is what is disgusting about the present law. It took it for granted and the ignorant officers who are enforcing it to the best of their stupid ability also took it for granted that the governor of the state and the state highway commissioners were law violators. Otherwise why did they search their baggage and effects? It is all right to enforce the law but such insults to the chief executive of the state should cease. If he is not a law upholder and law supporter who in the world is? And he ought not to have to prove it. The burden of proof should be upon the law not the individual.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Is Japan Looking For Trouble?

(Charlton Bates in Leslie's.)

If suspicion of Japan's sinister motives prevails in the

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United States, it is due to Japan itself. Suspicion creates suspicion, and distrust, distrust. The eagerness with which Japan, on the slightest pretext, parades with a chip on its shoulder, as if challenging Uncle Sam, is responsible for the widespread feeling in this country regarding the sincerity of its professed friendly feeling for the United States. The American government sent a note to China expressing "regret over the dissensions which were tearing that country apart." It was at once cabled back to us that Japan resented the alleged failure of the United States to consult it before presenting its note and the Tokio Times semi-officially used this forceful language: "The Foreign Office officials must obtain from the United States an assurance that it will not repeat its action in interfering with the domestic affairs in China, completely ignoring the existence and position of Japan." It added that the negotiations over the matter had already begun with the United States and that it was a matter of "great gravity" as it concerned the future of the empire.

Going still farther, the Tokio paper warned America that "in order to prevent future misunderstandings, Japan would seek America's recognition of Japan's special position in China." Other newspapers of Tokio resented the American note as "a glaring interference with Japan." They warned the Japanese government that it was probably "an epoch-making precursor of further activities." If these are the words of friendship and if they indicate a desire to maintain friendly relations, then the cable must have curiously garbled them.

PHYSICAL VALUATION.

Its Failure Admitted At Washington.

Wash.—Valuation of railroads, begun more than four years ago, is a failure. Railroad men, shippers and even some officials of Commerce Commission admit unworkability of the act as it stands. Lack of progress in the work has nullified its value. To make valuation useful, the commission has been compelled to enter an order requiring the few roads already valued to revise inventories of June 30, 1914, up to date.

Inherent cumbersomeness of valuation procedure, according to interested parties, originally nullified value of the act. On top of that came the war, bringing an era of high prices which threw valuations previously regarded as fairly stable all out of line. A fair valuation three years ago is not a fair valuation today. The commission recognizes this.

Bringing data up to date will require much work by the roads, necessitating checking over all cost items and figuring of increases in cost, from the smallest spike to the largest locomotive.

Railroad men further declare the system is basically wrong in that it permits endless argument over fair values. One of the most difficult points is that relating to appraisal of intangible properties and elements of value. Railroads and the commission are hopelessly at odds on some of these points.

Adoption of arbitrary standards of value by the commission is possible. This, the roads are prepared to claim would bring confiscation and herald the downfall of the independent railroad system. The railroads are ready to throw some of the disputed points into the courts if the commission does not adopt their views.

Only a very small percentage of railroads has been valued so far. Valuations of a dozen or so roads appraised are being bitterly contested.—Boston News Bureau.

A BIG DAY.

It will be a big day when the La Grande Hospital boys pass through to join the Rainbow division in the East. We should all be on hand to welcome them on their way to France.

The Voice of New England.

New England is not alone in demanding an end to diplomacy in the dark. Toward the close of his term in the Senate it was Mr. Root, unless our memory is at fault, who protested against the failure of Congress to continue its annual appropriation for the publication each year of the diplomatic correspondence of the Department of State, covering the preceding twelve months. But he protested in vain, for since 1907 or 1908 the Red Book, as the publication was called, has not appeared. Prior to that time its appearance was eagerly awaited by every newspaper office in the land, by every library, and by those who were fortunate enough to receive this diplomatic year book from their senator or representative in Congress. In addition to the volumes distributed officially others were on sale at the government printing office.

The diplomatic correspondence of the Taft and Wilson administrations has not been published and therefore the Red Books for those years are missing. From time to time in the last four years the people have been vouchsafed a few of the exchanges between Washington and the war capitals of Europe, but the communications given out have been an exceedingly small part of those dispatched and received. Not the President, but the Congress is primarily to blame for this lapse into secret diplomacy. Therefore the people have a right to look to Congress, not next session, but now for an appropriation large enough to cover the cost of resuming the publication of the Red Book and bringing the series up to date. There never was a time when the people so sorely needed to be informed in regard to foreign policy as they do today. There never was a time when the people were so deeply interested in foreign policy as they are today. The surprising thing is that President Wilson has not already taken Congress to task for its shortcoming on this score. These words from "The New Freedom" warrant the as-

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sumption that he shares New England's desire to see the processes of our diplomacy opened up to public view:

Wherever any public business is transacted, wherever plans affecting the public are laid, or enterprises touching the public welfare, comfort or convenience go forward, wherever political programmes are formulated or candidates agreed on—that place a voice must speak with the divine prerogative of a people's will: "Let there be light."

So speaks the voice of New England today in regard to the diplomatic correspondence of the Government since President Roosevelt left the White House. "Let there be light."—Boston Transcript.

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