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--- This paper has enlisted with the government in the cause of America for the period of the war ---

LUDENDORFF LEANS ON A REED
Field Marshal Ludendorff, thoroughly Prussian, dismisses America as a factor in the ultimate decision of the war. In doing so he pits the German "will to win" against the "will to annihilate" of the allies and reckons on the instability of the Americans! This attitude is so typical of the entire course of Junkerdom that it might be dismissed without serious or extensive consideration. The military leaders of Germany planned to avoid any interference in the war on the part of America, to be accomplished by factional divisions among our people, says Omaha Bee. This failed, but its failure has taught the Potsdam plotters no lesson. In their purlindness they cannot conceive, much less comprehend, the spirit that has brought us into the war. Materialists in all they do, they have no thought of fighting to sustain an ideal and refuse to credit Americans with having entered the conflict for any reason more noble or worthy than the sordid considerations that animate the Germans. In measuring his opponents by his own standard, Ludendorff is preparing for even greater disappointment than he has yet endured. He is leaning on a reed when he banks on success to be achieved by reason of failure of Americans to be steadfast in the great job.

It is cheering to learn from the department of agriculture that in August there was an improvement in spring wheat to an extent which will add 21,000,000 bushels to the crop. This will make a spring wheat harvest of 343,000,000 bushels, or a total wheat harvest of 890,000,000. This is 101,000,000 bushels below the expectation last spring, but it is a pretty big production, just the same, says Buffalo Express. The wheat situation is better than it has been for two years, but nothing like the free use of wheat can be expected before the end of the war. With the encouraging wheat report we have a discouraging corn report—that is, there was deterioration in August which cut the prospective crop down by 317,000,000 bushels to 2,672,000,000 bushels. Corn lost 171,000,000 bushels in July. We need all we can get of all kinds of grain and this loss will be felt, though, of course, not so severely as would a heavy loss in wheat.

Up to the present time all shipbuilding records were held by the British. They had a highly developed industry that had been in full operation for generations; most important of all, they had the yards and large numbers of skilled workers to assure them first place. After April 6, 1917, it was necessary that the United States, under extreme pressure, should create the yards, recruit and train the workmen and turn out the materials before it could hope to increase in any considerable measure the American rate of production and the annual output. That is what has been actually done in spite of persistent efforts to minimize the success of our hurried war methods. It has been a marvelous achievement, reflecting honor upon American enterprise and skill, upon American shipbuilders and ship workers.

Hindenburg's familiar instructions to his generals to do their work without pity because no general who looked for success could be less than savage is bearing fruit. His generals have tried to live up to his theory. God knows. If there is any brutality they have failed to inflict when opportunity offered it was because it had escaped their reading, or they had not the brains to invent it, says Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Yet they are no match for the cool, smiling, humane Foch, and his equally cool and smiling lieutenants.

The feat of the two British flyers in one machine who captured sixty-five Germans, and flying around them herded them into the British camp, would have aroused only derisive smiles if set forth in a work of fiction. When the history of this war comes to be written, its incidents will make it read like an imaginative romance.

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION.

Russia must be brought to know that true liberty puts upon itself rigid self-restraints. The real possessor of freedom is the one who makes a conscientious use of it, says Providence Journal. It is in the most highly developed form of society—where we might expect the least trammels—that the most trammels are self-imposed. Consciousness of power rouses in any right-thinking man the desire to employ it sparingly. It is the yellow-streaked mind that lends itself to selfish schemes of aggression. The bolsheviks are political parvenues. They have had no experience in governing themselves or anybody else. They are carried away with the idea that liberty is a gift from the gods, by virtue of which they may rule their unhappy neighbors with blood and iron. They are as crude and dangerous as a small boy with a buzz-saw. We can only hope that out of this tangle of theories, this welter of suffering, peace and order will eventually arise. Surely the insanity of the present lawless processes cannot go on forever. From where the helping hand, the guidance of experience and wisdom is to come, it is not yet possible to see. But somehow the hapless Russian people must and will be saved from their worse selves.

From the western front the shortest route to Berlin lies through Belgium, crosses the Rhine at Cologne and continues north via Minden, Hanover and Spandau. The wear and tear of war doubtless has deteriorated the roadbed and the rolling stock. It will be a long, hard road to travel. There is another and shorter road to the capital of the German empire. It lies in a straight line through the air. A man on a suburban train was discussing the war. "I wish," he said, raising his voice, "that a thousand American bombing planes were going to drop bombs on Berlin at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon." The whole car stirred. A thrill passed through everyone at the very thought. The road to Berlin lies through the air. Any afternoon at two o'clock that a thousand American bombing planes drop bombs on Berlin, that afternoon at three o'clock the war will be over, says New York Herald. The bomb fest that will end the war is not as near as it should be. But it is coming, and the German high command knows it. When it is over, the waves above the Lusitania will cease shrilling for vengeance and will gently murmur "Peace."

The Kaiser's remarkable address to the Krupp workmen at Essen speaks of his death-defying navy and of its beating the enemy, but fails to explain why in face of a victory it scurried back to port. That he left no stone unturned to shorten the war may be true from his point of view, but it was only when he found the war going against him. It is significant also that he says, "you and me," instead of "me and you," and that he takes care to make a special address to the women. This war for democracy is making some headway, even with kaiserism.

Before getting into this war the United States government reasoned, parleyed, persuaded, almost prayerfully besought the "imperial German government" to refrain from indiscriminate and uncivilized methods of warfare. The Hun idea was to reduce the world to ruin and despair, and then spread Deutschland uber alles. Kaiserism could not be persuaded to desist from this idea. But now kaiserism is worried about the ruin that the continuation of the war will spread over Germany and Austria.

The Kaiser says the enemy's modes of warfare are reprehensible. They must be, from a Hun standpoint, for the allies have bombed no hospital, wantonly killed no women and children and do not torture prisoners. They have adhered as closely as possible to civilized methods, and it is easy to perceive how this conduct comes under the ban of kultur.

The Japanese cabinet has been obliged to resign owing to the failure of its members to curb the food speculators. The food profiteers everywhere are beginning to realize what war is like, and that when everybody else is under restrictions, their modest request is not going to be heeded of only asking to be let alone.

The comics make a blunder in portraying man with no apparel save a barrel with both ends knocked out. In real life there never was a man in the world who was lucky enough to have a barrel accessible when he had lost his duds.

Tobacco is regarded as a necessity. The nonuser can never understand why some forms of it could rank as luxuries.

If you want to know what a man is, find out what kind of phonograph records he buys.

Spanish influenza is just old-fashioned grip with a military title.

NURSES WITH RELATIVES.

Under all the circumstances, it looks as if the war department will soon have to modify its order that the American women cannot be sent abroad for service if they have relatives in the ranks or among the officers of the expeditionary force on the other side. The great shortage of nurses and the demand for nearly 40,000 more nursing recruits make a situation that can hardly be met, if a rule is enforced that works an injustice to so many capable women who are ready to go abroad as nurses, but are estopped by the present attitude of the department, says Philadelphia Ledger. It is, of course, understandable why the department decided that it was bad for the service to allow the wives and very near relatives of the officers and men in the army to seek any kind of billet in order to get abroad, no matter how high the motives were that inspired this desire. But since those very classes that have given the greatest number of efficient men volunteers to the service of the country are just the classes from which the largest number of capable nurses is also likely to come, it is plain that the government will be cutting off a superb source of high-class supply if it continues to insist that the older rule shall stand.

"British manufacturers of automobiles are all engaged on war work and can at present make only a few cars to special license of the ministry of munitions," says Charles G. Harper in Motor, in the course of a very significant discussion of post bellum conditions in the automobile industries of England and France. "But there is nothing to prevent designers thinking out and planning new cars, and most of the reputable British firms are in fact advertising that they have long 'waiting lists' for their post bellum automobiles. They are not, however, so keen to divulge exactly where those cars of the future will differ from the old. That is understandable. But received opinions almost with one accord agree that British manufacturers are to make a bid for the custom of the small man. I indicate the man of moderate means. They think the after-war period will be one in which the luxury car will be an article in comparatively little demand; and thus they are going to concentrate on the light car."

Control of the cotton boll weevil seems to be in a fair way of accomplishment by the work of an entomologist of the United States department of agriculture. When that insidious pest, which has been taking heavy toll of the cotton crop and annually extending his feeding grounds, stops his work of puncturing cotton squares and bolls, and ambles forth to quench his thirst from a dewdrop or raindrop on the cotton plant, he is likely in the future to imbibe a poisoned draught which will be as effective as a knock-out drop. What this means to the cotton growers of the South and the industry as a whole can hardly be estimated in dollars and cents, but the curtailment of the weevil's activities, even in small part, is so important as to make the discovery by the department of agriculture of the fact that arsenicals may be used as a powder spray in controlling this pest one of its most striking and valuable contributions to the agricultural industry.

The French government has started a movement to fix individual responsibility for all violations of recognized international law, especially cases of atrocity, and to punish them after the war, as other crimes are punished. There seems to be crystallizing everywhere a sentiment that those guilty of these atrocities shall not be allowed to escape punishment by pleading the excuse of war. To this end the evidence available is being carefully gathered.

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which the army in active warfare is suffering abroad, the industrial workers at home might have their attention called to the fact that the soldiers are not striking, and that it is little less than treason not to support them in the splendid work they are doing with all the effort and self-sacrifice necessary.

We have been warned against overconfidence, but when a man like Haig tells us the dark days are over, a reasonable and cheering optimism can be allowed. And this optimism ought to act on all as a spur to bring the bright days of victory nearer still by omitting no means of doing so.

The American people are asked to save six billions more than last year for the war. The sum is vast beyond the power of the mind to grasp—but divide it by 100,000,000. It is only \$60 each; more for some, less for others, according to their means and needs. It can be done.

The American and British soldiers get along all right so long as they keep away from two subjects. One is Ireland and the other the relative merits of baseball and cricket.

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