MAKING NEW WORDS.

One of the well-known English words, cabal, meaning a strong combination to carry out a predetermined purpose, was made from the initials of the five British ministers, Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley and Lauderdale of the cabinet under Charles II, who signed a treaty with France against Holland in 1672. The word news is fancifully devised from the letters standing for north, east, west and south on a weathervane, but its more probable derivation is from new. A few years ago a western organization of women took the name "Wimodaughsis," from the first syllables of wives, mothers, daughters and sisters. More recently the organization of Camp Fire Girls adopted its motto, "Wohelo," the first two letters of work, health and love. The most recent example of the creation of a word from initials is Anzac on the Gallipoli peninsula, made from the Australian and New Zealand army corps. In conjunction with such a real name as Sinla it looks Turkish enough to pass muster, but it is only an army emergency word devised from a far-off military contingent and not yet on any save the latest newspaper maps.

From the city dweller's point of view the fall of the year means mornings when it is a delight to leave the house and a sorrow that the streetcar tracks are not further away; it means Saturday afternoons and Sundays when a tramp along a lane or over a field path brings recreation in the truest sense of the word. When nature puts on its gown of russet and gold and copper it charms away the sense of oncoming winter blasts and makes one forget the shriveling noons and restless nights of midsummer, says Rochester Post-Express. The farmer turns with complacency to the final job of getting his crops transmitted into a balance at the bank, boys garner their booty of nuts and openly pilfered apples, the golfer takes his final swings and pledges himself to better things next year and the coal man sings with joy as he hears the precious fragments tinkle down the chutes toward the gaping furnace.

The question has arisen in Philadelphia whether civil service examiners are vampire proof, and whether goo-goo eyes have more influence in landing jobs than correct papers, says Baltimore American. The question is answered entirely in favor of the official incorruptibility of the examiners and the promise is made that any intending Delilahs will be routed and put to flight in great confusion if they attempt vampire wiles. The raising of the question, however, goes to show that even officialism cannot wholly shake off the susceptibilities of human nature.

Mexico is expelling the Bolsheviki there and informing other governments of the plots to establish Soviets. Russia has done a favor to the world by demonstrating past doubt the utter failure of this form of government ostensibly for the people, but really worse tyranny by the few than the rule of kings, says Baltimore American. Its results there are opening the eyes of other nations to its perils.

A London wife complained of her husband being so jealous that he threw water on the kitchen stove after she had cleaned it, claiming she thought more of the stove than she did of him. If the hot times he evidently brought about in the house could have been utilized it would have been a great economical saving of fuel.

A dog in Newfoundland saved 92 lives on a shipwrecked vessel by carrying them a rope after struggling with a heavy sea to reach them for over an hour. It is a grave reflection on human nature that many men live their entire lives without being near as useful to humanity as this one dog.

A Spanish town mutinied lately because the local government had not supplied enough bulls for the bullfight. It is a pity that a nation like Spain has not at this stage of the world thrown off so much of her primitive savagery.

Absence of horns on cattle has been brought about by selective breeding. It is the idea, just possibly, of some sympathizer with the dog that all these years has been tossed around for worrying that cat.

A conference of wheat growers has determined that the cost of growing a bushel of wheat to insure the farmer a 20 per cent profit is $2.77. Maybe, after all, the old methods were the best.

You can get a pretty fair $1.25 shirt for $2.50 after it has been reduced from $4.50. All you have to do is just keep your eye on the bargain counter.

We do not question the cabled assertion that Paris has 8,000,000 rats, but to complete the record we would like to have the name of the man who counted them.

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HAVE TO WORK IN RUSSIA.

An announcement from Washington explains why it is that deportees are so reluctant to return to Russia and participate in the benefits and beauties of soviet government. They have to go to work after getting there; they find the lot of a citizen of the soviet republic quite different from the lot of a citizen of this republic, where radicals work mainly with their jaws, and where every prospect pleases, only man existing under the old order being vile, according to their way of thinking. The Washington dispatch says that this information received is authentic. As soon as deportees arrive in Russia they not only are assigned to certain tasks, but if they object they are informed that "there is machinery for dealing with such cases." It's a sad world, says New York Morning Telegraph. If an alien in our midst advocates the overthrow of this government, we send him home; if sent home, he is set to work. What is to become of the old-fashioned, picturesque agitator?

Now that practically every one in the United States appears to agree that the profiteer should not be tolerated, it is about time to define a profiteer, legally and otherwise, so that all may know what the rascal looks like, for of course it is obvious that he has joined the pursuing crowd that is seeking him. One trade periodical objects to the profiteer, yet in the same breath decries any effort to lower prices. While not saying that there has been any profiteering in sugar, remarks Christian Science Monitor, it is fair to ask if anyone believes that some of the sugar men, for instance, are being abused if they are either asked or forced to lower their prices, say 50 or 60 per cent, or even more, from the war figures.

Pietro Mascagni, famous Italian composer, hoisted the Red flag over a destroyer at the Livorno navy yard on the Adriatic. How much better it would be if he and his fellow-countryman, Gabriele d'Annunzio, could collaborate on some great oratorio of peace. Instead of that these song birds are rumpling up the world as sadly as they can, says Los Angeles Times. Although given to poetry and music they do not know what a rest implies—and they wouldn't let their country have it if they did. If we could only trade our stormy petrels for a wren!

Reference to the official constitution of soviet Russia shows that there is a large grim joker in the alleged promise of free land to the peasants. The peasants are given the land to work, but the central government dictates the crops that are to be raised and the prices the peasants are to receive. Property in land is vested in the soviet state. Instead of being free landowners, the Russian peasants are slaves to the land, just as were the serfs in former days and the helots of ancient Sparta.

The provisional President of Mexico has refused permission for the right by the socialists to establish a soviet university in Mexico City on the ground that it would be used to disseminate Bolshevist doctrines. Mexico is wise to apply the preventive principle of the safety-first movement in this respect, and is giving a lesson to other nations which have been more lenient or less far-seeing to their peril.

The French Academy of Sciences has indorsed the American rocking chair as the most hygienic of seats. Thus new fads give way in turn to old customs, and it is not impossible that the new science will indorse old Mother Nature in the cuddling of babies and the restoration of the cradle.

The British high commissioner of Palestine has taken up his residence in the palace which the kaiser built for himself on the Mount of Olives. It was probably done for convenience, but the fact has a significance palpable to the least observing intelligence.

It seems now that none of the discrowned kings of Europe wanted the war, and none of them is responsible for anything connected with it. Such a peace-loving lot, as they were, it is a wonder how the war ever happened.

Washington reports that the shortage of houses is acute. But what we want information upon is some house shortage that is not acute. It strikes us that acutacy is the dominant quality of shortaginosity in all cases.

BEING A LADY.

Before the gentler sex as a whole discovered that "woman" is a word that carries no invidious distinction, politic folk had to use the word "lady" a great deal. It was possible to get a "washlady," for instance, when to look for a colored woman to do the wash was hopeless, America's democracy, jealous of its rights, has risen a stage or two since then and "woman" is a respectable word again. But it was left to old Pennsylvania to apply a distinction. In Pennsylvania any woman can be a "lady," to be sure, but it will cost her 20 cents, says Milwaukee Journal. Township election laws make classes. "Housewives, housekeepers, servants" and so on must pay 20 cents to register for voting; stenographers, clerks and bookkeepers pay 25 cents; doctors and lawyers, 30 cents. But a "lady" must pay 40 cents. The class, it is naively explained, corresponds to "retired" for a man. Pennsylvania has baubles for her citizens—baubles that cost from 5 to 20 cents. You can be a lady in Pennsylvania for 20 cents extra—if you can stand the classification "retired." The way to be a lady that grandmothers used to tell little girls was harder, but it had the merit of convincing other folks than the registration clerk.

Leisure is freedom from responsible direction and social need. Work is the sinews of society, but a society based on leisure would disintegrate into an aggregation of hoboes. There is indirectly, however, a social value in leisure. Individualistic as it is, leisure wisely employed develops the personality into a better functioning social unit, says Chicago News. Leisure may be used for recuperation or education. Thus society, that increasingly powerful master of our lives, finds it wise to supervise a man's leisure as well as his work. His leisure, in a word, becomes voluntary, pleasant and yet useful employment. Thus is leisure transformed into a positive asset not only to the individual, but to humanity.

Ten European nations engaged in the great war show a potential loss in population of 35,000,000 persons since 1914, according to figures compiled by the Society for Studying the Social Consequences of the War. Causes for the abnormal falling off in population were attributed as follows: Killed in the war, 9,819,000; deaths due to augmentation of mortality, economic blockades, war epidemics, 5,301,000; fall in birth rate due to mobilization of 56,000,000 men between the ages of twenty and forty-five years, 20,200,000. That is just one more thing to think of by those who speak so lightly of waging war.

Money is being raised in Great Britain at the rate of $50,000,000 monthly for the promotion of housing schemes in that country. Plans have been approved for more than 200,000 houses so far, and work has been begun on 80,000 houses. Announcement of these facts comes from the British minister of health. Great Britain has passed the talking stage on the way to relieving its housing shortage. The United States is less fortunate.

The Austrian archdukes and archduchesses in exile have been compelled to go to work to earn their own livelihoods, it is reported, as the war has cut off their revenues, says Baltimore American. The Austrian aristocracy has been among the haughtiest in Europe, and it will do them good to be made by a not unkind fate to realize they are made of the same human clay as other people.

Inventors are working on a device to prevent listening in on wireless telephone conversations. Why don't they invent something like that for regular telephones?

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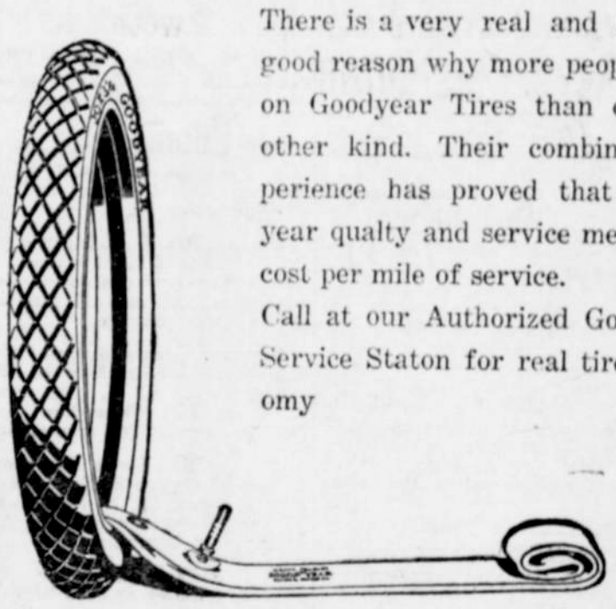

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