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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1915.

ACTION, NOT WORDS.

Germany has decided on a radical modification of its submarine policy, if it be true that there is to be complete disavowal of the savage and lawless act which sank the Arabic. It is plain that up to this time the imperial government has either been indifferent to the course to be adopted by the United States or it has been convinced that the Wilson diplomacy would end as it began in verbal protests, irreproachable in form, but meaningless in their implication of a final resort to force. If the former assumption is correct, Germany has changed its mind; if the latter, it had become evident that the logic of his own position and the sentiment of the country would compel definite action by President Wilson.

If Germany, by its silence, or continued evasions, or open approval, stood by the destruction of the Arabic, it would be impossible for President Wilson to retreat or retract. The two nations were face to face. A contretemps was unavoidable, unless one or the other backed out. Germany has chosen to yield, unless the assurances made to the American Ambassador at Berlin and to the State Department through the German Ambassador at Washington are wholly misleading. Probably they are not.

It may be profitable to examine the course of the American diplomacy and to see why and how a determined and consistent assertion of American rights and a frank and unyielding opposition to German wrongs have brought a powerful nation to an open acknowledgment of its error, with a pledge that it shall not be repeated.

After the successful assault on the Lusitania (May 7, 1915) President Wilson dispatched a note of protest and warning to Germany, in which he said:

> American citizens act within their indisputable rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them upon the high seas.—President Wilson to Germany, May 13, 1915.

Upon this simple postulate the entire method and expression of American diplomacy have been based. The seas belong to the world of commerce and of civilization, and the rights of all law-abiding citizens of neutral nations to traverse them freely, and to carry on trade with one another and within certain defined limits with belligerents themselves, could not be abridged by the fiat of any country, whatever its necessities and whatever its convictions of its own interests and duties. Upon this sound basis the case of the United States rested. The President then said:

> It [the American Government] must hold the Imperial German government to a strict accountability for any infringement of these rights, intentional or accidental. . . . The Imperial German government will not expect the Government of the United States to omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of the sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment.—President Wilson to Germany, May 13, 1915.

It would appear that the imperial German government was not impressed either with the merit of the American contention or the seriousness of its intentions, for its reply was an astonishing diplomatic outburst of irrelevancy and veiled insolence, and an utterly mistaken statement of the ascertained facts. There was no disavowal of the deed, but there was evident a purpose to pursue the same unprecedented and uncivilized methods.

President Wilson sought again to hold Germany to a genuine consideration of the issue. He said:

> The Government of the United States, therefore, deems it reasonable to expect that the Imperial German government will adopt the measures necessary to put these principles into practice in respect of the safeguarding of American lives and American ships and asks for assurance that this will be done.—President Wilson to Germany, June 9, 1915.

Germany was not able to escape from the idea that it was easy to trifle with the American government, for its reply was a vague assurance of friendship and an extraordinary definition of conditions upon which Americans would be permitted to travel the seas. President Wilson was not moved from his original position, except that he appeared willing to forget the Lusitania and to accept a promise that there would be no similar attacks in future. He said:

> Friendship itself prompts it [the United States] to say to the Imperial government that repetition by the commanders of German naval vessels of acts in contravention of those rights must be regarded by the Government of the United States, when they affect American citizens, as deliberately unfriendly.—President Wilson to Germany, July 21, 1915.

Then came the Arabic tragedy, the climax of the German policy of warfare against non-combatants and neutrals. It was the final blow, and there was nothing left but action—nothing if the President was not to confine to mere phrase-making his diplomacy, his assertion of American rights, and his defense of the National honor.

Germany has seemed to expect action and not words, and Germany has yielded. It is clear that the imperial government was not willing to risk a collision with a power which, however unprepared for war it may be, has unlimited potential resources and a mighty purpose to see through to the end whatever it may undertake. Probably by the end of the European war the unreadiness of the United States would have been a thing of the past.

What, then, has the German-American episode proved? It has shown that a willingness to act, and not a mere facility in diplomatic correspondence, achieves results.

Most fields in the Willamette Valley should produce three crops a year. In the Spring there should be a cutting of oats and vetches for the silo, to be followed by corn on the same land. The third crop will ultimately be harvested from fruit and nut trees planted scatteringly so as not to injure other growths. A few apple trees scattered about a large field would not be so troubled with pests as dense plantings are.

A GAY NOVELIST.

One of our popular novelists confesses to a little gentle melancholy when he finishes a story and parts with his company of characters. It is like leaving a gay room where he has been gracefully entertained and he says he always "hopes for an invitation to another such party very soon," and of course gets one, for he can begin a new novel as soon as he likes. The books constructed by these light-some authors require but little thought and less imagination. They are built by rule of thumb and can be turned off in quantities to suit the demand or the author's whims. The frolicksome fickleness with which this story writer takes leave of one set of characters and turns to scrape acquaintance with another reveals two not very encouraging facts about our literature. The first is that its makers do not take it seriously themselves and cannot therefore expect anybody else to be much impressed by it. They find in authorship a facile means of making a living, with some agreeable notice from the public, but they are as far as possible from "learning in sorrow what they teach in song" or story. Quite the contrary. They learn most of it in the easy surroundings of afternoon teas and musical evenings, with the music not too classical.

The second fact revealed by our authors' airy spirits is that they do not think their characters of much consequence. It is "easy come, easy go" with them. They are the dragon flies of the social world, born to live an hour and perish. When Charles Dickens had finished writing the death of Little Nell he walked the streets for hours so wrought up that he could not rest or sleep, and, though the dear child died in the book, she will live forever in the hearts of readers. Authors who write for the ages do not let characters lightly into their books nor dismiss them with a forgetful bow and smile. Literature has been described as a "section cut out of the living body of the world, streaming with blood and throbbing with the impulses of the soul," but clearly no such conception of it has been formed by some of our current novelists.

THE FOOL ON THE TRACK.

By recent reports it is found that the railway accidents in the United States in the last year, of serious or fatal nature, numbered 10,785, which shows that railway traveling is about as safe as walking along a crowded street, far safer than riding in an automobile—even safer than driving "Dobbin" along a country highway.

Of the accidents mentioned no less than 4712 occurred through trespass, for example, walking on the roadbed, while only 3840 lost their lives or were seriously injured while riding on trains. This is a serious commentary on the carelessness of our citizens and at the same time a wonderful tribute to the management of our railways.

It is stated that on the so-called Harriman roads, of which the Southern Pacific is the largest factor, not a single life was lost during 1914 to a train passenger or employe while on a train. There were numerous accidents, but not a single fatality and only few serious injuries. That is a wonderful record; one for any railway management to be proud of.

It would be interesting to know, but the record is not clear on the point, how many little children lost their lives by being allowed to wander on the right of way. No doubt the number is appalling, for scarcely a week passes that we do not read of such an accident in the Northwest. This is a species of carelessness on the part of mothers that is almost criminal.

A WARNING FROM CANADA.

An example of the effects of government construction of railroads is found in the history of the Manitoba-British Columbia Railroad, which has been built by the Canadian government. Preliminary estimates placed the cost of the 1800 miles at $30,000 to $35,000 a mile. The actual cost ranged from $60,000 to $98,000 a mile. A government commission has found that fully $40,000,000 was wasted. The government offered to the Grand Trunk Pacific Company a lease of the road at 3 per cent on its cost, including the waste, but the company declined the offer.

The experience of Canada with government construction has been much the same as its experience with government operation. The Intercolonial Railroad, extending through the maritime provinces, is, or was until recently, owned and operated by the government. It has regularly shown a deficit, while the privately owned roads have generally earned good dividends. Canadian politics are as full of pork as those of the United States. Many hungry "workers" are "taken care of" by the leaders at public expense. Some of the pork smells of downright corruption, as in the case of the Manitoba Parliament building. A royal commission recently reported that the cost of that building was padded to the amount of over $800,000, and entertains a strong suspicion that the padding went into the treasury of the ruling party, or into the pockets of its members.

Our own experience with the postoffice, reclamation and river improvement warrants hope of no better results from Government operation and construction of railroads in this country. Construction would probably be as expensive as that of the new Canadian road to the Pacific Ocean, operation as unremunerative as that of the Intercolonial. The efficiency and economy with which the Panama Canal was built by Colonel Goethals have encouraged many to hope for similar success with Government construction in general, but the canal is in a class by itself. It was put in charge of an Army engineer, behind them a strong-willed President stood to keep the politicians at bay. Colonel Goethals' own story, as published by The Oregonian, shows that even then he had some difficulties in "standing off" the politicians. We could not expect equal good fortune in every case. The appetites of the political parasites would become so keen as they viewed the rich opportunities that the pressure might easily prove irresistible. Mountains of pork might be divided which would make the river and harbor bill resemble a molehill.

Exceptions to the rule are allowable in some rare cases. The Panama Canal was one. The Alaska Railroad is another. Where a wild, remote territory needs development, where the amount of capital needed is beyond the powers of any but a dangerously strong combination of individuals, and where the prospect of a return on the investment is distant, Government construction is justifiable. Where the opportunity tempts investors and is within their financial power, private construction and private operation under public supervision are best for the public interest.

PIONEER DIET.

Mullein is not so common in Oregon as in some parts of the country. Still, most people have seen the plant and would recognize at once its large, velvety leaves, its tall stalk and long raceme of yellow flowers. The plant is neither beautiful nor useful according to common conceptions, and yet it plays something of a part in the world. The boy soldiers in the First Reader found mullein stalks excellent weapons in their charge upon the flock of geese which they put to flight. The Philadelphia North American gives us to understand that mullein tea is good for lung trouble. We have never tried it for that purpose, but we know from the experience of early life that the leaves serve acceptably in place of a mustard plaster if that active therapeutic agent cannot be had. They are also an excellent substitute for tobacco when one is not yet old enough to defy the paternal hickory and smoke the genuine weed. There are many humble companions of the mullein in barnyard and pasture which formerly played a far greater part in domestic medicine than they do now.

"Smartweed" in pioneer times was known to be excellent for coughs. The dried leaves were steeped, sweetened and drunk with the most marvelous curative results. "Mayweed," which is now basely denominated dog fennel, yielded a milder remedy for colds. The hot tea was swallowed just before going to bed and caused the attack to be sweated out of the system. Boneset tea was another infallible cure for coughs and colds which has been displaced by more pretentious and expensive preparations. The pastures of olden days also yielded a variety of delicious "greens" which one never sees on the table in these times of luxurious self-indulgence. About the best greens were afforded by "cowslips" growing along the banks of streams and lapping their feet in the water. The learned call this delicious edible marsh marigold, but they do not eat it. Nettles also made an acceptable Spring dish when thoroughly boiled with a lump of fat pork, but next to cowslips the best greens were probably supplied by "pussley," a weed which set out to be a pest of the garden but ended by becoming a table delicacy. The resources of nature are surprisingly abundant when we are compelled to discover and use them. The human race might find in the fields and woods the materials for an adequate diet if all its food articles now in common use should be annihilated.

WHY NOT REPLY TO HIM?

Although there may have been some military impropriety about permitting ex-President Roosevelt to deliver a speech criticising the Administration at the citizen soldiers' camp at Plattsburg, N. Y., the Administration would better be careful about attempting to restrict the freedom of speech enjoyed by any citizen, particularly an ex-President.

The people generally will form the impression that what hurt was the truth of some of Colonel Roosevelt's criticisms. It is an undeniable fact that, although the world has been at war for thirteen months and although the United States is only now seeing a way to avoid being involved in the war, nothing materially has been done towards strengthening our National defenses. While the war was raging, Congress cut down the Naval programme proposed by the General Board and pigeon-holed plans for establishment of a real Army Reserve and for improving the Militia. The House military committee is headed by a pronounced pacifist and the President's declaration about citizen soldiery trained to arms was so vague as to discourage hope that anything of value in this particular will be accomplished by the Democratic Administration.

No person takes seriously Colonel Roosevelt's assertion that the United States should have gone to the defense of Belgium. Sympathy being generally with that country, the Colonel's words will be taken rather as an evidence of his chivalry than as an earnest attempt to drive this country into a European quarrel.

The less the Administration says about such technical breaches of military etiquette, the better for its own standing before the public. It will win few and lose many friends by creating the impression that it endeavors to silence critics for whom it has no reply.

FORGETTING HOW TO SHOOT.

There is a startling contrast between President Wilson's Secretary of War and his Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Garrison frankly tells the people in what respect the Army is deficient and by writing and speaking he endeavors to arouse public opinion to the necessity of making good the shortcomings. Mr. Daniels positively and repeatedly asserts that the Navy is better than it ever was and removes a high officer who makes a contrary statement.

The latest example of this pernicious bolstering up of Mr. Daniels' optimism by concealment or perversion of facts has been brought to light by Representative Gardner. He said recently that naval marksmanship had shown a startling deterioration in the last year. Mr. Daniels characterized this statement as "information incomplete and based on gossip" and "which tends to discredit the Navy and hinders rather than helps their efforts." Mr. Gardner now retorts with statistics of the target practice of last Spring, as compiled by the chief umpire. Here are the figures:

	Hits.	Shots fired.
New York	12	70
Texas	8	70
Delaware	5	70
Arkansas	9	84
Wyoming	11	84
Utah	6	70
Florida	2	70
Kansas	8	28
Michigan	5	56
Virginia	5	28
Rhode Island	5	28
Nebraska	3	28
New Jersey	4	28
Louisiana	2	28
Vermont	2	28
Minnesota	3	28
New Hampshire	1	28

Where is the man behind the gun of whom we were so proud when he smashed the Spanish fleet at Santiago and when he made world records in subsequent target practices? He is doing fancy stunts, originated by the fertile brain of Mr. Daniels. Of what use is a Navy unless its men can shoot straight? We might as well have none, as the Spaniards' experience at Santiago proves.

Not only has the marksmanship of the Navy deteriorated, but the active fleet has diminished in strength. The Atlantic fleet had seventeen battleships in target practice last Spring; it now has only ten, with a few destroyers but no submarines. The other battleships are under repairs or lack crews. With war clouds all around us, we are even less prepared for war than we were when the second Hague conference had raised hopes of perpetual peace.

Next to neglect of the Nation's defenses, the most serious offense of which a statesman can be guilty is to conceal that neglect and to cry "All's well" when all is not well. To that species of official infidelity is largely due the handicap under which Great Britain is now fighting. By practicing it Mr. Daniels lays himself open to a double indictment.

FARM VERSUS CITY LIFE.

"'Back to the soil' is a real movement to agriculture in this country," writes George K. Holmes, of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, Department of Agriculture, in the year book issued by that department, "but it does not conform to the descriptions in the newspapers and magazines. It is not a strong movement, it is not a concerted one, and it does not create in kind and characteristics the agriculture that is prevented by the migration from farms, nor replace in kind and characteristics that migrated population."

Just what Mr. Holmes means when he says that the "back-to-the-soil" movement "does not conform to the descriptions in newspapers and magazines," we are at a loss to know. If any newspaper or magazine, or any legitimate publication of any sort, has stated that there has been a concerted movement back to the soil, then we have failed to see such statement.

Every editor in the country interested in the development of the country has for many years deplored the fact that the city has drawn very largely, far too largely, upon the population on the farms. Neither Mr. Holmes, nor anybody, we think, can say that this is not true. The Oregonian has for years taken that stand and sees no argument in the article of Mr. Holmes to retract anything on the subject it has ever published.

The whole trouble with Mr. Holmes seems to be that he makes a wrong deduction from the words "back to the soil." He seems to think that the newspaper and magazines are making strenuous efforts to get city people, people who know nothing about farming, to move from city to country and take up farming. Let him read the words again. "Back to the soil." Do they not imply, do they not actually mean, that what we are striving for is to get those people who have been reared upon farms and have later left them for the city, to return to the farms, to the soil?

We do not mean that, in our opinion, there are not many people in the cities today who could with profit to themselves and the country take up farming as an occupation and do better for themselves, better for their families and better for one and all. When we take note of the scores of city folk who have left Portland and gone onto farms without any previous experience and have done well, better than they ever did in the city—when we think of these we know that there are hundreds of thousands of people living in the cities of the United States who could with great profit to all remove to the country and go to "tickling the soil."

But the real "back-to-the-soil" slogan means what it says and Mr. Holmes, before writing for the next year book, had better try to decipher that meaning.

LONDON'S SUPREMACY AT STAKE.

The twenty-three motor trucks which carried to the New York Sub-Treasury $19,534,000 in gold brought from London were a substantial evidence of London's effort to hold the financial supremacy of the world. The war has turned the balance of trade so heavily against Britain that a pound sterling, which in normal times exchanges for $4.87 in American money, is now worth less than $4.64. The decline has been so great and so continuous and threatens to continue so indefinitely that American bankers will no longer be willing to accept the pound sterling as the international measure of value unless steps are successfully taken to restore the former stable rate of exchange between the pound and the dollar. Our bankers may demand that international dealings be calculated in dollars, and may compel British bankers to accept the change. Use of the pound as the measure is the symbol of British commercial and financial supremacy, and substitution of the dollar would mark transfer of that supremacy from Britain to the United States.

That great shipment of gold was a dramatic event in Britain's effort to retain supremacy. It was one of many such shipments which since February 1 have aggregated $120,000,000, and these gold shipments have been supplemented by sale of $250,000,000 in American securities. In spite of these efforts to square accounts, the balance in favor of this country grows so steadily that Britain may seek other means of settling it. Transfer of gold across the Atlantic in war time is fraught with difficulty, expense and danger and other measures are being sought in London. An understanding on a general financial policy has been reached between the British Treasury Department and banks, and probably also among the allied governments, and American co-operation in their plans is to be sought by a committee of London bankers which is coming to New York to confer with American financiers.

Even if there were no other objections to exporting gold, the allies desire to protect their supply of that metal in order to prevent depreciation of the vast amounts of paper money they have issued. With great success France has followed the example of Germany in appealing to the people to deposit gold in the banks and take paper money in exchange, or to use gold in buying war bonds. France is balancing accounts with London by shipping gold thither, and the British banks have added to their gold stock through the sale of war bonds. Britain has also accumulated stocks of gold amounting to $100,000,000 in South Africa and from $15,000,000 to $20,000,000 in Australia and New Zealand.

To some extent gold shipments are held in check by return of American securities to the United States for sale or as security for loans in this country. About $30,000,000 worth of such securities were shipped to New York with the gold shipment above mentioned. But these securities do not come to the United States in sufficient volume to offset our trade balance, for they are held in higher esteem by European investors as securities of belligerents are depreciated by war.

In fact, the trade balance adverse to Britain has reached such proportions that settlement by gold shipments or security sales seems out of the question. A correspondent of a London financial journal has made the following estimate of this balance for the year 1915, based on actual results for the first five months:

Normal excess of imports	£140,000,000
Additional excess due to war	260,000,000
Import excess reported	£400,000,000
Add for goods brought in Government ships and money spent abroad by troops	120,000,000
Total import excess	£520,000,000
Less freights and interest on foreign investments	350,000,000
Balance	£170,000,000
Add estimated loans to colonies and allies	200,000,000
Total adverse balance	£370,000,000
Normal favorable balance	210,000,000

The only practicable means of settling the part of this balance which will remain after deducting gold shipments and security sales is to borrow directly in this country. France and Russia have done this in some degree, but Britain finds obstacles aside from her objection to substituting the dollar for the pound as the basis. A loan in the United States would draw 5 per cent, or more, free from income tax. The last loan in Britain pays little over 4 per cent after deducting income tax. The British investor would not be pleased at seeing foreigners paid higher interest than he receives, and the bonds sold in America might prove an obstacle to further sales at home unless the same rate was paid to Britons as to Americans.

If great British loans should be placed in the United States, and if the bonds should be payable in dollars, the fact would signalize London's abdication of financial supremacy in favor of New York.

HEREDITY AND LONG LIFE.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby, the author of "Parenthood and Race Culture" and other works on eugenics, believes that length of life depends more on heredity than any other factor, leaving accidents out of the question. He points to the fact that a native Australian is as "old" at 45 as an American or European at 65. The savage's temperate habits, wholesome food and simple outdoor life do not save him from decrepitude and death at an age when men of the white races are still in their prime. It is not his bad habits, therefore, which bring premature decay upon him, but the fact that he has not inherited longevity from his ancestors, as many of us have. Hence we outlive him. We also live several years longer than our own ancestors, as a rule, because longevity has been selected by the evolutionary forces and has been bred into the race. The fact seems to be that every living being born into the world is gifted with a certain amount of vital energy. Some have a great deal; some have but little. This energy is expended in growth and the upbuilding of the body. When it is exhausted growth ceases, but decay does not begin immediately if the body has been well put together or, in other words, if a person has a "good constitution."

The vital energy with which each person begins his career cannot work out its full effect unless it has suitable material to use in the shape of food. An undernourished boy cannot attain to his full stature. Scant diet has the same effect upon a human being as upon a steer. It stunts him. But, on the other hand, no amount of food, however abundant and well chosen, can cause a living creature to grow beyond a fixed limit. When the vital energy which was apportioned to him at the outset is gone his development can proceed no farther. This notion of a definite portion of vital energy in every life germ lies at the root of "seed selection," which has done so much for agriculture in some parts of the country. Farmers have found that some seeds are twice or three times as "vital" as others. Such seeds, if they are picked out and planted, yield much larger crops than the ordinary run. The vital seeds always come from progenitors which have a large initial supply of vital energy and which have consequently surpassed all rivals in the field in size, vigor of growth and early maturity.

The world is full of illustrations of this fundamentally important point. In a field of corn which has been planted with ordinary seed some plants will shoot up twice as tall as those near by and bear larger ears with many more rows of kernels. A vigorous plant of this kind may stand only a few inches from a stunted scrub which was planted almost at the same moment and which has received precisely the same nutriment and cultivation. The first repays the farmer's care richly because it set out upon its existence with a heavy endowment of vital energy. The second returns nothing but disappointment, because its vital energy was scant to begin with. It did the best it could, no doubt, but the best was a miserable failure. Attention to these facts has given us the science of plant breeding, with seed selection for its basis, which has brought many millions of wealth to progressive farmers. They have found that fertilizer, cultivation and the best of soil are thrown away upon crops if the seed originally planted is deficient in vital energy, or, what comes to the same thing, in heredity power to germinate and grow.

The same principles apply to the breeding of animals. Feed and care are for the most part wasted upon scrub stock because they lack the inherited capacity to make use of it in growth. It is a matter of common knowledge among stockmen that an animal of a good strain will return twice as much, oftentimes, as a scrub, when both are fed alike and have the same care. The power to take on fat, to produce milk, to grow long wool, is passed on from one generation to another by heredity, and so is the sire's power to perpetuate his own qualities. It is by no means true that like always produces like in the plant and animal world. Some sires can be depended upon with great certainty to perpetuate their own physical and psychic traits, while others signally fail in this respect. This important capacity is known to breeders as "prepotency," and it is one of the most valued of all hereditary traits. From the myriad facts of this nature which surround us everywhere we readily understand what Dr. Saleeby means when he says that "long life is hereditary." A person who begins his career with a large supply of vital energy will outlive those who have less, other things being equal.

It is equally evident that every person has his "appointed time." No matter how favorable the conditions may be in which he lives, he must perish when his initial supply of vital energy is exhausted. Lack of food and care may shorten his life, but no precautions can prolong it beyond a certain predetermined point. But be our "appointed days" many or few, it is our privilege to live them to the end. If we fail to do so it is because we deprive our vital energy of its staying power by poisoning ourselves. Poisons creep into the human system from a thousand sources. The common habit of eating too much fills the body with ptomaines which cannot be eliminated entirely and whose slow accumulation breaks down its vigor. Tea, coffee, alcohol and tobacco contribute insidiously to the same destructive end. The way to long life, says Dr. Saleeby in a recent article in the New York Sunday Times, is "to stop poisoning ourselves." If we would obey his precept we should afford nature a chance to work out her selective process upon the human race. In the last few centuries she has been "selecting" longevity and the results are apparent in a general lengthening of human life in civilized countries. With this goes a fall in the birth rate which fills many persons with fear lest the white races vanish from the earth. But their fear is groundless. If fewer are born than formerly this is balanced by the fact that fewer die in childhood and more live into old age. The ultimate effect of our declining birth and death rates is to raise the average age of the population, not at all to diminish its numbers.

We have only one favor to ask of Wilhelm, in this whole matter. Make 'em change Petrograd back to St. Petersburg. That new-fangled name never did rest well on our euphonic temperament.

With the mailboxes green and the hydrants a bright red, Portland has an artistic color scheme, and, as Judge Hennessy Murphy would observe, "the green is above the red."

Certainly that strange illness down by the mouth of the river is due to the weather. One eats more than is good for him and this is the time of year for lassitude.

However, on sober second thought, we will not say a thing about Christmas shopping until your Summer vacation is a trifle farther into the background.

Napoleon was wrong. The Lord isn't on the side of the heaviest battalions so much as on the side with the heaviest ammunition supply.

A deer hunter, fired on twice, escaped. Exceptional circumstance. While the deer usually escapes when fired at, the hunter rarely does.

Political prisoners in Warsaw citadel bless the Germans for their release. The wonder is they were left alive when the stampede began.

Governor Withycombe has given the motto "Safety First" a National significance, and the whole country should take up the cry.

Germany is considering coining the 5-pfennig piece of iron. The copper is needed for circulation foreign in the form of shells.

People uncomfortable here can journey to Northern Michigan, where a heavy frost ruined the vegetables night before last.

"City employes have a picnic," says a special from some place or other. Do they ever have anything else?

Germany has 58 U-boats in operation—and there's American blood on more than a tenth of them.

Anyway the Russians should be thankful that they have plenty of territory yet behind them.

By the way, that ten-day limit for Mexican peace replies passed several days ago. Now what?

War rumors are forcing wheat down. But there may not be a grain of truth in them.

If, as reported, Britain now has an army of over 2,000,000, why doesn't it do something?

We wait with dark forebodings for the forthcoming decrees on 1916 fashions.

The plan is good. Let the city burn the municipal wood and get rid of the problem.

The Astoria regatta provides enough admirals for the navies of the whole world.

Indian Summer, the most delicious of seasons in Western Oregon, is at hand.

Make the most of this peaceful year. All sorts of elections will mar 1916.

King George will review the entire British navy. He'll need a diving suit.

Teddy will make no more talks in military camps, it is safe to gamble.

Somehow all the flies seem to be in the restaurants at dinner time.

Our list of 1916 Presidential impossibilities: Bryan and Roosevelt.

Mr. Taft is getting to be quite a fire-eater himself, these days.

The trouble with Russia's standing army it that it doesn't stand.

Yes, Nellie, even the bass drum players have been striking.

Maybe the Arabic was a victim of spontaneous combustion.

Lloyd George must talk to the mine-owners this time.

Incidentally, when are we going to raise the F-4?

Our straw hat must shortly go into hibernation.

Another ten days—and back to school.

Mexico is now due for another inning.

The five-pound note is not what it was.

On to the hop fields!

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

The Glow of the Legal Lights.

Oh, don't hang back, my sullen Muse,
When summoned forth to sing.
My gentleness do not abuse,
Pause not on balky wing;
But join with me in metric flights
In honor of the legal lights;
Come hop with me into the trench
To boom with song the bar and bench.

Oh, Muse, hereinbefore invoked,
Called on and summoned forth;
Redeem my lyre (which has been soaked)
And play for all your're worth;
Proclaim our friendship well-intentioned
For all said lights as aforementioned;
Smite, strike or pluck, chord, strand or string;
Hymn, chorus, choir, descant and sing.

On aforementioned bench and bar,
(Hereinbefore-named Muse),
Whose chiefs have come from near and far,
All arts of song I'd use;
And so I've summoned, loud and clear,
You to approach, attend, draw near,
With psalter, flute, harp, horn and gong,
To help my hereinafter song.

Come forth, come forth! Do not refuse
Assistance to my lay;
But lift thy lilting measures, Muse,
And sweetly sing and play;
Assist me in my proud intention
To hymn the recent Bar Convention;
So Muse come forth, and help me here;
You are subpenaed to appear.

"Sir, said the Courteous Office Boy,
"What is it, Boy?" said I.
"Pray why with legal matters toy,
and legal language try? From everything that I have saw, you know darned little 'bout the law——"

"Tut-tut!" was my responsive roar,
"Full many a lawyer knows no more."
"Sing on then, but if you get pinched,"
he cried, "I hope that you'll be lynched."

I sing, then, in praise of the recent convention,
When Portland was host unto many a guest,
Of every status and type and dimension,
The Bench and the Bar of the noble Northwest.
In myriads rambled they into the city,
And well-nigh they swamped the reception committee;
Decreeing the rock-pile for care and annoy—
And serving a habeas corpus on joy.

And Portland was given unto the possession
Of delegates gathered from near and afar,
The ordnance huge of the legal profession,
The massive big guns of the bench and the bar;
There Rudkin and Darch and Judge Bennett were seen
With siege guns like Wolverton, Chadwick and Bean;
And field guns of various measure and draft;
And the "Forty-two" howitzer, William H. Taft.

Behold there were Morrow and Gantenbein in
With such "mihen werfers" as Henry McGinn,
And Davis (not Pike, although Pike was there too),
And Gatens and Kavanaugh, rumbling through
'Mid field pieces trusty, wherein one might mark,
The stout rapid-firers like Logan and Clark;
And mobilized strongly for fierce legal drives
Were Evans and Reames and such "Seventy-fives."

And Bristol, McCamant and Leiter and Wood, and such grenade throwers assembled there stood, of various caliber, range and trajectory; to name all would need a whole city directory.

Suffice it to say that in Portland conventioned the ordnance all duly hereinbefore-mentioned and many another from near and from far, adorning, enhancing the Bench and the Bar.

Oh, Muse, it was a busy week
And thronged with big events,
For the committees here, and eke
For many other gents;
For Carey, Ridgeway, Hogue et al,
To greet a many a legal pal,
And have, in suiting way, expressed
Our welcome to the whole Northwest.

Had I the time, for just a minute I'd sing of Behrends and of Sinnott, with whom full many an hour I pressed my head to dope out jest on jest which we turned o'er to Josie Flynn and all her minstrels, planned to win immense applause when all should go unto the golf club minstrel show.

Ah, 'twas a gala night for sooth,
Where walked neath flaming porch and booth,
The legal lights and each played off
As though he knew the game of "goff"
(And some there were who did, y'bet——
Like Murphy or like Latourette).

Now from this scene I'd like to go
And to describe the minstrel show,
And how the assembled host did shout
At gags that Behrends whittled out,
And did applaud to understand
The jests from Roger Sinnott's hand,
And let great gales of laughter run
At wheezes I myself had done;
I'd like to tell all this for certain—
But it were best to draw the curtain.

Sing about receptions to the bench and bar; judges and attorneys gathered from afar; four and twenty judges, debonair and fine, and each lawyer trudges round the entire line.

Schnabel's in the hallway eating up ice-cream; Veatch is in the dining-room where the punch bowls gleam; Riley left the city and wasn't there at all, and several hundred others were buzzing round the hall.

As noon-day's sun between the cell doors pried,
Methought the voice of Walter Evans cried:
"Ho, Yatens, lock the door and shoot the bolts!"
And forty prosecutors were inside.

Forty district attorneys tried and true,
Glared with wild eyes the steely gateway through,
And took the third degree without a groan
There in the ribald court of kangaroo.

And when the reg'lar pris'ners heard the fuss,
Unto his cell door came each pale-faced cuss,
And lamped the prosecutors, pinched and jailed,
And cried, "By Golly, that looks good to us!"

Oh, for three days one could not sleep o'nights, so flamed the glory of those legal lights; from Lotus in the North there was no drouth to where the U. Club flourished in the South; and East and West no arid torment fell, and all went merry as a marriage bell.

'Twere vain to try to tell the whole
Of all that did befall,
From Sunday, midnight's op'ning toll
To Thursday morning's call.
Suffice to say, in this short rhyme,
They seemed to have a bully time.

And in the mess I did address a man from my home town, where Oscar Hayter to attend the meeting had come down; I saw Judge Belt and, O, I felt fond mem'ries in my dome, and I said: "Friends, please say, 'He sends his best regards back home!'"

I thank thee, Muse, who did assist
In doping out this lay;
For, when there is a crowd to list,
I've got to sing and play.
As I, hereinbefore have said,
Full joyously the week has sped,
And now, sweet Muse, who did assist
I guess your case can be dismissed.