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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 1918.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING.

Discussion of policy which shall govern the schools in their teaching of foreign languages will be stimulated from time to time by resolutions such as that adopted by the Indiana State Grange, which declare that there "is no honest and patriotic reason for the teaching of foreign languages to children in the grades, either in the public or sectarian schools." The grange goes so far as to say that such instruction breeds disloyalty and contempt. It protests against the teaching of foreign languages in any school, public or private, sectarian or otherwise, or in any home, or any place, by any individual to any child under 16 years of age.

It would be idle to pretend that the resolution in question, which represents the extreme view of the foreign language issue, was not the direct result of our war with Prussia, or that it is not aimed directly at the German language, although it includes all foreign languages in the proposed ban. The fact would appear to be that the war, because it has brought to us a realization of our growing importance in the world, and has fired our imaginations with thoughts of an enlarged destiny, has increased rather than diminished interest in the study of languages, and this has been attended by the inevitable counter movement.

It happens that German is the foreign language most generally taught in our schools at a time when we are at war with Germany. There is a natural, though somewhat chauvinistic, reaction against things German. Distrust of the language accompanies growing hatred of the institutions which we associate with militarism and intolerance. But if French, for example, or Spanish dominated our foreign language courses, or if we were at war with Japan, whose language is not commonly being taught in this country, it is quite reasonable to suppose that we would not hear any protests against foreign languages in general.

There is persistent failure to differentiate between teaching foreign languages and teaching in a foreign language. There is a wide difference between the school in which instruction in the common branches is given in the foreign language which predominates in the neighborhood, and the school in which all the branches, including languages, are taught in English, and in which due place is given to our literature and history, and patriotism is properly emphasized. In such a school—and this sort is the rule rather than the exception—the foreign language course is a mere side issue. The children of the foreign-born receive the instruction in our own tongue, which equips them for their duties as Americans, and American children are not impaired by learning the languages of other countries.

It is more than ever apparent that Americans will have important work to do in the reconstruction of the world after the war, and mutual understanding of languages is absolutely necessary to international intercourse. Either we shall be required to master the speech of other peoples or they will be called upon to learn ours. The alternative to both is that we shall continue a policy of linguistic insularity which will put us at a clear disadvantage. We have in the past been so fully occupied with domestic development that we have not even sounded the possibilities of foreign trade. We have not felt the competition of other countries in commerce because we have not tried on a large scale to develop trade. One language has been enough for us because we have been content to stay at home. If others had anything to say to us, they could learn English. That has been our attitude. It explains why, before this war began, we were struggling against heavy odds to build up business in such "neutral" trade regions as South America, and why the nations which had no prejudices against the languages of their customers were making headway, even with inferior goods and less economical methods of production.

It may be said that the movement antagonistic to foreign languages, as it would be directed by the Indiana Grange, does not inhibit foreign language courses after the pupil has reached the age of 16. But this, it would seem, can better be left to the judgment of local school authorities. It will be true in most instances that time can be most profitably employed in the grades with other branches, but it would be a pity to close the door to the ambitious youth with his eye on a possible career in foreign trade. It is not safe to put a general ban on learning of any kind, and those who hope for mastery of a new language cannot set about acquiring it too soon.

It is conceivable that within a few years there will be special demand for young men who can speak French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese and Chinese, to say nothing of German—for we shall not always be at war with Germany. To place an arbitrary age limit upon instruction in these languages, in the schools or otherwise, would hardly serve the ends of patriotism. It is quite beside the question of teaching more English in the schools or teaching it better at the same time. It would be the height of silliness.

TO THE END.

Russia, even the Bolsheviki Russia, is undeceived as to Germany. What Germany has it intends to hold. Russia now knows it. The world has all along known it.

Germany cannot deal fairly even with the elements and forces which have served her ends in Russia. She regards the Bolsheviki as merely the servile and ready instruments of her imperial destiny, which is world domination.

Russia may not be able to make war with Germany, but Germany cannot make peace with Russia.

Kerensky, Korniloff, Kaledines, Trotsky, Lenine—all the varying voices and passing forces of Russia—may have their brief day, and pass on. But the instinctive spirit of Russia is against autocracy and, therefore, against Germany. There may be a vassal Russia, but never a German or Germanized Russia. Russia knows it; but Germany, self-deluded, does not know it.

The nations have come slowly to know what Russia has just learned about Germany—that it is to be either a German world, or a free world.

Now Lloyd George says again that the fight must go on until (1) the sanctity of treaties is re-established; and (2) peoples are free to determine their own government; and (3) armaments are limited through international agreement. So it must be.

In spirit America entered the war when the great Belgian atrocity occurred; in purpose when the Lusitania was destroyed; in fact when the freedom of the seas was denied.

It is the irrepressible conflict. We are in the war against our will, but not against our conviction of right, duty, justice, honor, interest. We are there to the end. We must be. There is no alternative.

THE 6-CENT FARE.

The earlier order of the Public Service Commission on the 6-cent fare issue, coupled with recognized conditions and higher wage scales lately established, left no ground for expecting a decision other than that given by the Commission yesterday. Beginning January 15, the cash fare on the cars will be 6 cents; five tickets may be purchased from conductors for 30 cents; or books of fifty tickets may be obtained from the company for $2.75 or at the rate of 5½ cents the fare.

The earlier decision of the Commission found that the revenues of the company for 1916-17 yielded a net income of 2.8 per cent on the Public Service Commission's valuation of the utility. In the preceding year the net income was 2.3 per cent. This rate of return was not net profit to the stockholders, but was the net available for payment of both interest and profit.

Since these findings were issued the company has increased the wages of employes, and it is said to be a fair estimate that the 6-cent fare will not yield additional income sufficient more than to pay the increase in the wage scale. It was not an issue involving increased profits for the company, but plain protection of an established enterprise in its effort to deal fairly with its employes.

In its earlier order the Commission suggested certain economies in service and traffic arrangements. It also proposed that the company be relieved of paving costs, bridge tolls and franchise taxes. Referring to these proposals the Commission said:

> We desire to be plainly understood, however, as entertaining no sanguine hopes as to the possibility of escaping an increase in fares unless the heartiest co-operation is afforded the utility.

The company thereafter put into effect the economies suggested by the Commission, but the savings thus made were small in comparison with the potential saving incident to repeal of city charter requirements as the Commission had proposed. The city could not give the co-operation suggested without a vote of the people, and it was not done.

Portland is now to have the 6-cent car fare. In listening to possible objections and condemnation it is well to remember that the issue was raised solely for the purpose of making possible an increase of wages to a body of faithful employes inadequately paid since living costs and other wage scales mounted to existing figures; that the extra penny paid by the patron does not enrich stockholders or bondholders, but makes continuance of the higher wage possible. It goes into the pocket of Portland working men, whence it will find its way into local trade channels.

THWARTING THE SLACKERS.

A new type of patriot has been developed by the draft and the efforts made by scheming slackers to evade service. The patriot in question took a risk unattended by the compensating glory of death on the battlefield. No medal for bravery now adorns the bosom of his khaki blouse, but he is content in the sense of duty well done, for he has been the means of saving, perhaps, several hundred men of draft age for the National Army who otherwise would have escaped. It is an interesting tale.

Many of the classical methods of simulating disability are known to Army surgeons, but not all of them, for slackers are growing wise in their generation, too. The patriot who is the subject of this article, a private in the Medical Corps, was seated in the lobby of a New York hotel when he overheard a subdued conversation between a would-be draft evader and a physician. The physician outlined the details of the injection of certain drugs and of a simple operation which he said would cause the patient to develop within twenty-four hours the symptoms of Bright's disease and of another disease which was sure to bar him from the Army. The enlisted man noted down the names of the drugs and the method employed, and went with all speed to medical headquarters. There he found the surgeons in doubt whether the scheme would work, and whether if it did it would be unattended by danger to the victim.

So the enlisted man offered himself as a volunteer in the interests of science and the honest enforcement of the draft. His sacrifice was accepted, and when he offered himself, as a final test, before an Army medical staff, he was rejected. Then the whole story came out. As a result, according to Army surgeons, an important chapter has been added to the knowledge of all medical boards charged with the duty of separating sheep from goats.

The value of the service of this unlaureled volunteer to all citizens who have no desire to evade their duty would be hard to overestimate. It is plain that the spirit of democracy embodied in the compulsory service law depends for its maintenance upon the fairness with which the law is exercised. Drafted men will have no cause for complaint if they are satisfied that no more than their just share of the burden is being imposed upon them. Slackers outside the ranks will breed discontent within them. But it is seen that draft boards and medical examiners will need to have wisdom as well as good intentions if justice is to be done. A special medal for the young man who aided in thwarting the latest slacker scheme would seem not to be amiss.

PUT BUSINESS MEN ON JOB.

The history of military and naval invention for more than fifty years is a history of new discoveries made by Americans, rejected by the American Government and adopted by foreign governments. The Navy Department continued to build sailing ships long after steam was a proved success in the merchant marine, and to build wooden ships long after steel ships had proved their merits and had been adopted by the British navy. An American invented the submarine, but it was built in greatest number by France, then by Great Britain and now by Germany. Americans invented the torpedo and proved its value in the Civil War, but Great Britain built torpedo-boats twenty years before we did.

Americans invented the airplane, but France, Germany and Great Britain built great air fleets and put them to use in war when we had barely begun to build. So with the tank, which is a development of the automobile, manufactured on the largest scale in America. That invention was perfected by an Englishman from the American tractor and had proved its merits in the battle of the Somme, but the American Army was not prompt to adopt it. So with the Lewis machine gun. It was at first refused even a test by General Crozier, but has become the most effective minor weapon of all European armies. The Enfield rifle has killed tens of thousands of Germans and American factories were equipped to produce it on a large scale, but General Crozier must needs waste precious months in bringing it up to his own ideal of perfection.

The way to full development of American military resources is plain. The Administration should put business men on the job.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

It is natural that a National crisis should reawaken interest in the country's leaders of thought and action in the past, and it is this, no doubt, which has made the "Life and Letters of Edward Everett Hale," arranged and edited by his son, one of the leading books of the past year. "The Man Without a Country" has been reprinted in large numbers since we entered the world war, and all sorts of people have wanted to know more about the author of the story. This is not precisely as Dr. Hale himself would have wished to have it. He often expressed regret that he was best known as the writer of a work which he regarded as an incident in his larger field. His ministry, his interest in social affairs, his deep concern for the political welfare of the Nation seemed to him to be greater things than the little tale, with its practically impossible beginning, but logical and realistic narrative and conclusion, which did so much to shame the slackers and to put new vigor into the patriots of the time of our Civil War.

A life as broad as that of Dr. Hale is not only filled with interest for a variety of readers, but points a moral for all who seek one. It seems strange to read that he did not like school, although he entered Harvard at the age of 13. In particular he did not like declamation, to which so much of his success as a leader was due. In his later years he is quoted as saying: "I owe to the public school and to this now despised exercise of declamation that ease before an audience that I share with most New Englanders." It seems that he was grateful for the fact that the "elective" system of education had not at that early period been run into the ground. There was merit, after all, in the hard-headed policy of guiding the pupil until he became old enough to decide with discretion what was likely to be good for him.

The college life of the great preacher is an impressive reminder of the importance of employing time well. He got his lessons "as a matter of course," but was not idle the rest of the time. He read a good deal, studied history and practiced gardening, hunted wild flowers and made philosophical experiments, always for all that those avocations were worth. He made of everything a mental occupation. One senses something of the spirit of the modern captain of industry in the manner in which he turned even the spare moments to account, and is reminded of the popular saying that if one wants something done he must get a busy man to do it. His optimistic philosophy was well summarized in his own words:

> To look up and not down,
> To look forward and not back,
> To look out and not in, and
> To lend a hand.

Dr. Hale's ministry was constructive. His idea that the church should be a strong social factor in the community and that it should identify itself not merely with its own members and its own community, but with its own times, was more novel then than is now easy to believe. His latest biographer says that while he had this idea of the church as a social power early in life, it was long before he apprehended the full import of the church's mission. Then he saw the importance of accurate knowledge of immigration, taxation, social betterment, relief of the poor, care of delinquents and kindred social subjects, now accepted as a matter of course. If he did not plan a modern institutional church, he at least pioneered the way. It will give one a better impression of the nineteenth century to realize that so much was accomplished for the welfare of the people in the years in which Dr. Hale labored actively.

Persuading a church that it existed "not as a club of well-to-do Christians, who have associated for their profit and pleasure, but as a working place in the world of men and women," was not the least of the tasks to which Dr. Hale set himself and which his biographer records. We are reminded that although this was only sixty years ago, organizations within the church for carrying on good works were not very numerous. Hardly less influential than the better-known "Man Without a Country" was Hale's "Ten Times One Is Ten," but in a different way, for it is probably true that this work led to the formation of many charitable organizations. The Lend-a-Hand clubs were a direct outgrowth; the King's Daughters and others were suggested by it. We have so many organized forces now at work to crystallize the uplift spirit that it does not seem possible that within the lifetime of many of us these were comparatively rare. Development of the higher phases of the communal spirit never has been more rapid than in the last fifty years.

There is still another moral in the life of Dr. Hale. Although he was afflicted in his later years, there is nothing sad in the account of them. He was chaplain in the United States Senate when he died, at the ripe age of 87. The secret of his happiness may have lain in his boundless activity. His recipe for long, tranquil life was contained in his own words: "For the truth is that what a man needs is to live as much as he can. 'Life more abundant,' as the Savior says, is the great object; that I may live more earnestly and vigorously and efficiently than I did last year."

RED TAPE.

The war machine has all but stalled in Washington because of cumbersome and involved departmental methods. The art of doing things in the most roundabout way has been reduced to a science. The name of the thing is red tape.

War has its thousands of victims, but red tape its tens of thousands. It seems impossible for a public officer to escape its strangling and sinuous folds. Nobody can do anything unless it goes the rounds. Every project must have half a dozen or more distinct O. K.'s before anything can be done; and if it is proposed by anybody to do it in a different way, it can't be done.

The whole stifling process is well illustrated by the following colloquy during the Senate military affairs committee's investigation:

> Senator McKellar—Suppose you were to recommend that overalls be made a part of troop equipment?
>
> General Sharpe—In a matter like that I would have to send that down to the Adjutant-General.
>
> Senator McKellar—Where would he take it?
>
> Genera. Sharpe—He would take it to the chief of staff.
>
> Senator McKellar—Where would it go then?
>
> General Sharpe—It would probably go down to the war college.
>
> Senator McKellar—And then where would it go?
>
> General Sharpe—Then it would come back to the chief of staff.
>
> Senator McKellar—Back to the chief of staff, and then where would it go?
>
> General Sharpe—Then back again to the Adjutant-General.
>
> Senator McKellar—Then where would it go?
>
> General Sharpe—Then they would notify me what the action was.
>
> Senator McKellar—By that time the war would be over, I hope.
>
> General Sharpe—I hope the war will not last long.
>
> Senator Weeks—Suppose you were to go direct to the Secretary of War and ask for authority to do it. What would he do?
>
> General Sharpe—I do not think the Secretary of War would consider it improper, Senator, but he depends upon the chief of staff as his military adviser, and he naturally should.
>
> Senator McKellar—But could you not take it direct to the chief of staff and have him act on it?
>
> General Sharpe—I doubt if he would act upon a matter like that.

When General Wood, who has been marooned in a cantonment in Kansas, needed overcoats for his shivering soldiers, he went to Kansas City and bought them, and charged them to the Government. They need more Woods and fewer Croziers in Washington.

EMPLOYMENT OF WAR PRISONERS.

It is improbable that employment of war prisoners on farms in the United States, as suggested by the California State Committee on Farm Labor, will prove to be a practical solution of the farm labor problem of this country, but the proposal is in itself evidence that farmers are awakening to the necessity for making ample provision for the coming crops. The committee, however, has invited constructive criticism, and does not assume the attitude of finality. It asks that a competent authority investigate the feasibility of the war prisoner scheme and report upon the desirability of bringing prisoners to the United States, "thus lessening the drain on the Nation's exports and at the same time bringing in men who would be valuable additions to the supply of farm labor during the continuance of the war and who would be eligible and desirable additions to our population at its close."

Utilization of prisoners for farm work, even in Europe, has not been attended with success, although conditions are much more favorable there than here. Our farmers have been learning recently that the unskilled labor of their own countrymen is not always profitable. Supervision of widely scattered units would be expensive, besides. There is, moreover, general reluctance to let down the bars of immigration in the manner implied by the suggestion as to permanent future residence. It would seem that if we are to encourage additions to our population, this ought to be done upon mature reflection and with our eyes open. If special opportunities are to be offered, preference should be given to our allies and not our enemies. It is easier in theory than in practice to insure that all labor so employed shall be deported at the close of the war.

The same objections confront a concurrent proposal that Chinese labor shall be imported "for the period of the war." Experience with the exclusion laws in the past would suggest extreme caution in this regard. For the sake of domestic tranquillity, we should be slow to precipitate at this time an issue that is fraught with possibilities of disturbance.

Three other suggestions made by the California committee contain the germ of a practical idea. Compulsory labor laws, as a war measure, ought not to encounter objection from those who are willing to work to help the Nation win the war, and they have been reasonably effective in Maryland and West Virginia. Better organization and co-operation among official employment agencies, especially in the distribution of seasonal labor, would save much friction. The third measure would depend upon the action of draft boards in individual cases, and would require that they obtain full assurances that those who claim exemption on the ground of employment in a necessary industry are actually so employed.

Increasing employment of women in clerkships will help somewhat by releasing men for outdoor work, but only in part. We are not yet ready to reduce school terms materially, because we realize the need of educating our youth for future service. It is significant of the trend of events that the Californians would abolish the saloon to increase working efficiency. This would not only release bartenders for necessary work, but would contribute to the well-being of other workmen.

No labor plan which may be adopted will relieve farmers of the duty of studying their own problems of management. Every possible labor-saving device must be employed. It is admitted that there has been great labor waste on farms in the past. The farmer who rearranges his gates and fields and who takes full advantage of the seasons in such manner as to save his own time literally increases the National man power, and saves money for himself at the same time. The aggregate of possibilities in this single direction is exceedingly large.

QUACK GARDEN METHODS.

The amateur farmers who tried out a variety of quack schemes last season, instead of being content with approved methods, are beginning to record their experiences for the benefit of their neighbors in 1918.

One of these is a man who built a "potato pen," which is constructed on the principle of a big plum pudding with potatoes instead of raisins and earth in the place of dough. He built his pudding eight feet square and six feet thick, according to directions, and sowed a bushel and a half of potatoes, costing $2 a bushel. The harvest was a peck of potatoes, all of which grew on top of the cube. He had been told to expect wonderful results.

The labor required to build his fantastic mound would have been sufficient to cultivate a city lot all season. He has, however, been benefited by learning not only that the particular scheme was not worth while, but that other novel ones ought to be investigated before being adopted.

It will be found as a rule that there is a definite reason why any method for which extravagant claims are made has not already come into general use.

JELLICOE'S LOST OPPORTUNITY.

One of the points well worth study in watching the British nation at war is the manner in which it tries out commanding officers and disposes of those who have fallen short of the high demands made upon them. They may stand successfully all the preliminary tests of peace times, but the supreme ordeal of battle may reveal some hidden weakness of mentality or character which proves them unfit, or they may display high qualities in one form of warfare, but may prove unequal to another form. In either case they are cast aside, either into total oblivion if their failure is complete, or into honorable but quiet commands. Judgment is passed not only in the secrecy of the War Cabinet, but in the newspapers, where the conduct of each campaign is thoroughly canvassed. If the general verdict is adverse to the officer, the pressure of public opinion overcomes those private influences which restrain the government from displacing a man who has strong political or social friends.

The latest victim of this practice is Admiral Jellicoe. His organization of the fleet and his conduct of the blockade have won high praise, but there has been a rising tide of dissatisfaction with his action at the battle of Jutland and with his subsequent failure to draw the German fleet into a decisive battle. While the British people claim the battle of Jutland as a victory because German losses exceeded their own and because the German fleet abandoned the field to Jellicoe's fleet, they are disappointed that the main German fleet was not totally destroyed on the only occasion when it came out of its shelter. They contrast the relatively indecisive results of Jutland with the absolutely decisive results of Trafalgar, and they sigh for another Nelson. Jellicoe's defenders say that the battle is proved to have been a crushing defeat for the Germans by their retirement to their base and by their failure ever again to venture forth and challenge the British to battle. But that does not satisfy the average Briton, who cannot endure with patience the existence of a hostile navy.

The story of Jutland begins with the encounter between the British battle cruiser fleet, including also some battleships, under Admiral Beatty, and the German fleet led by Admiral von Hipper's battle cruisers and including the battle fleet under Admiral von Scheer. The Germans appear to have hoped to destroy Beatty's force, not knowing that the British battle fleet was near, but Beatty, knowing that Jellicoe was only fifty or sixty miles away, coaxed the Germans toward the main battle fleet by fighting against heavy odds and appearing to flee northward, though by so doing he lost heavily. His signals caused Jellicoe to hasten up at full speed and he turned eastward to meet the battle fleet, so that about 6 o'clock in the evening the whole British force was united and turned southward.

On sighting the main British fleet Von Scheer turned southward also to avoid a general engagement with a greatly superior force and to escape to his base. The two fleets continued on parallel courses southward, the British on the east, until 8:20, when both turned westward. This was Jellicoe's opportunity, according to his critics, for John Buchan says in his story of the battle, which was "published by authority" and may therefore be considered official:

> By 9 o'clock the enemy had completely disappeared and darkness was falling fast. He had been veering round to a westerly course, and the whole British fleet lay between him and his home ports. It was a strategic situation, which, but for the fog and coming of night, would have meant his complete destruction.

Von Scheer's one idea was escape, and he covered his retreat with smoke palls and torpedo attacks, protected also by fog and darkness. That which Jellicoe did is thus related by Buchan:

> It was impossible for the British fleet to close in the darkness in a sea swarming with torpedo craft and submarines, and accordingly he was compelled to make dispositions for the night, which would ensure the safety of his ships and provide for a renewal of the action at dawn. In his own words: "I maneuvered to remain between the enemy and his base, placing our flotillas in a position in which they would afford protection to the fleet from destroyer attack and at the same time be favorably situated for attacking the enemy's heavier ships.

Accordingly the night battle was fought between the lighter craft, but in this fighting, as Buchan points out, the Germans had the advantage, for "a following fleet can make small use of torpedoes, as the enemy is moving away from it; while the enemy has the advantage in this weapon since his targets are moving toward him." The outcome of Jellicoe's defensive tactics during the night is thus stated by Buchan:

> At earliest dawn on June 1 the British fleet turned northward to collect its light craft and to search for the enemy. But the enemy was not to be found. Partly he had already slipped in single ships astern of our fleet during the night; partly he was then engaged in moving homewards.

Jellicoe waited till 11 o'clock for the German fleet to return, but "was reluctantly compelled to the conclusion that it had returned into port."

The opinion of his critics is thus summed up by William O. Stevens, of the Annapolis Naval Academy, in the Yale Review:

> The crux of this battle (Jutland) lies in the conduct of Admiral Jellicoe. When the German fleet was caught in the worst of tactical positions and when the whole British fleet bore down to cut off their retreat, why did Jellicoe allow himself to be bluffed away to the east by a torpedo flotilla? Earlier in the day the same feint had been made against Beatty, and he had countered by a torpedo attack of his own destroyers without swerving a point from his course. We hear much of the "low visibility": why did not Jellicoe close to better visibility? Why also did he fail to keep touch with the enemy during the night, as the Japanese kept touch with the Russians during two nights in the neighborhood of the Straits of Tsushima? Finally, why did he, the morning after the battle, when his fleet supposedly lay between the Germans and Heligoland, steam away to the northwest and leave them an open door back to their bases? Unless questions like these are frankly met one cannot escape the suspicion that, after Beatty had brought the high seas fleet to battle, he had created an opportunity to duplicate Trafalgar, but that Jellicoe let that opportunity slip; that it was a Calder rather than a Nelson who commanded the British fleet on that day. There is no use in pretending that such questions are not asked even in England.

Admiral Jellicoe is accused of having lost a great opportunity by being false to one of the most cherished traditions of the British navy through funking. For this and for his general lack of aggressiveness he has been displaced as First Sea Lord of the Admiralty and has been "kicked upstairs" into the House of Lords. The event, taken in connection with conferences between British and American naval officers, may foreshadow a vigorous offensive against German bases on the North Sea coast and against Austrian bases in the Adriatic Sea. The addition of the American navy has given the allies such immense preponderance at sea that they may have determined to cease waiting for the Germans to come out of hiding and to force a decision.

One thing the British have learned in three years of army organization has been the great aggregate value of the by-products of the camp kitchens. At first these were wholly lost; later a committee was appointed to find buyers and instruct military units in saving methods; and in the first month that the new system was in full swing $37,500 was returned to the units for material which had previously been thrown away. This saving had been increased to $400,000 a month, but the money value does not seem so impressive as the statement that the glycerine recovered is sufficient for 17,000,000 shells per annum. At the same time a greater proportion of the food supplied is being used for its primary purpose. The plan has worked so well that it has been extended to the naval forces, even the Grand Fleet, and also to the troops in foreign service. The lesson is applicable not only to the American Army, but also to individual consumers, for the country already is threatened with a shortage of fat.

Japanese statesmen and politicians are beginning to discuss anew the advisability of sending troops to Europe to aid their allies, but it is significant that the military experts, who ought to understand the technical problems involved, frown upon the undertaking. The Minister of War, General Oshima, summed up his views of Japan's unpreparedness in a statement in which he said that an expedition of less than twenty divisions would be futile, and that such a force would require two million tons of shipping to transport and supply it. Japan, he said, could not possibly spare that much. Even more significant, however, was the admission that Japan is deficient both in aircraft and in the "masses of giant material" required for modern warfare. Without these, he said, soldiers would merely become food for powder. But discussion is only in the academic stage, there being no serious contention that the entente allies contemplate requesting military aid from Japan on any of the European fronts.

Of course, there is no need of soliciting business now that the competition has been taken out of railroading, but the talent and persistence the business-getters have shown in the past ought to be turned to some account by the Government. Men with energy and ingenuity should not be wasted.

The sentences imposed by courts-martial are not tempered by the idea that any of the judges will be running for office some time, and there will be no general system of paroles. The only way for a man to escape under military conditions is to walk straight and behave himself.

There would be a good deal to be said in favor of harness racing at state and county fairs if a way could be found to eliminate the betting feature associated with it in recent years. Good racing does stimulate the breeding of desirable horses.

The man who writes "Deutschland Uber Alles" across the face of his questionnaire is not nearly so dangerous as the alien, or even the native, who is silently watching for a chance to stab the country in the back.

Hoboken a night or two ago was without water owing to broken mains, no gas owing to coal shortage and little electricity for the same reason, but nothing was said of a shortage of the stuff that comes in kegs.

The Bolsheviki seem to be developing backbone, but they are likely to find out that a good deal else is needed to win the war. If they are wise they will go on making munitions while the Huns are fighting for time.

It makes a 16-year-old boy feel manly to "tote" a gun until it goes off and hurts himself or others. The best place for a lad of that kind is in the Boy Scouts, where he will learn to let pistols alone.

The British are now on the road to Jericho, but by the time they get there the place probably will be cleared of the undesirable element that gave it its bad reputation.

"Chinese beef" has a queer sound to those who remember the time when the Western ranges seemed sufficient to the task of feeding the world.

It is becoming increasingly hard for the American who quarrels with the meatless day regulations to prove that he deserves his citizenship.

Mud does not interfere with the training of our men in France—particularly that of the Oregon boys.

Greece may be a little late about it, but she is getting her alien enemies out of the army at last.

Two billions for ships! They come high, but we must have them.

The Peripterous.

Peripterous—A Structure Having Rows of Columns on All Sides.—Dictionary

(Synopsis of preceding synopses.)

The Oregonian, a great morning newspaper, employs a distinguished literary architect to construct a peripterous.

He does it. It has rows of columns on east, west, north and south.

The Peripterous becomes a Free Auditorium for the expression of incompetent, irrelevent and immaterial opinion, news, verse and anecdotes.

The Peripterous discovers seven wonders of Oregon.

A Department of Science Investigation is established and solves the Great Hat Rack and other fascinating problems.

The Society for the Suppression of War Poetry, having opened headquarters in this free and easy establishment, announces that its method of campaign to rout the enemy will be to pass on short war fiction in prose. The following has been accepted by the society's bureau of censorship as an antidote for war poetry poisoning:

A Hot Cross Bun,

or

The Jamaica Ginger Jag That Made Him Mad.

Efficiency Smith was known, close up and in deep perspective, as the forehanded kid. He seemed to have an uncanny sense of things about to happen. He understood his own capacity, and at the outbreak of war was often heard to remark:

"It will be a cold day when I suffer privations."

Efficiency Smith foresaw the wheat shortage and laid in a stock of flour.

He foresaw the sugar shortage and laid by sugar.

He foresaw the coal shortage and laid by coal.

He foresaw the milk shortage and bought a cow.

He foresaw the stogie shortage and planted his back yard to tobacco.

He foresaw the wool and leather shortage and acted accordingly.

But his keenest perception was exercised on the ammonia shortage. He foresaw that the ammonia shortage would curtail the output of ice and that the fuel shortage would cause a scarcity of sawdust.

And he foresaw that lack of foresight of his neighbor would finally compel the neighbor to sell his automobile to meet the high cost of living.

Efficiency Smith laid in sawdust, rented the neighbor's empty garage, bought ice and converted the garage into an icehouse long before the famine in either ice or sawdust arrived.

Then he once more remarked: "It will be a cold day when I suffer privations."

But human nature has its limitations. No man can think of everything, and Efficiency Smith failed to foresee the breakdown of neighborly honesty, which had made life pleasant during peaceful years.

One cold night the neighbors, in desperation, broke into Smith's cellar and stole his coal.

And it was a cold day and many of them when Smith suffered privations.

The Society for the Suppression of War Poetry intended to close the foregoing deep moral lesson at the point where the little dingus, known technically as a jim dash, embellishes the column, but an Unfettered Poet wandering by inquired what the Jamaica ginger title had to do with the story.

"That just shows the intelligence of a poet," retorted the president of the Society for the Suppression of War Poetry.

"You don't suppose the neighbors who took the coal overlooked Smith's forehanded stock of genuine intoxicating beverages, do you?"

But in spite of opposition, a poet, disguised as a gas inspector, got by the guards of the Society for the Suppression of War Poetry and shoved this under the office door of the Literary Architect:

Them Joans of Arcs.

Young Jim and Sue's been sirrupy
For close now to a year—
As Jim works fast he won her "yes."
And weddin' bells was near.
When at Dutch Bill, our president,
Got riled and called on Jim
To cross the pond and muss him up
With good old Yankee vim.

Of course, that sort o' put a hitch
In most of men folks' women
The same as Sue—I guess tonight
There's many eyes a swimmin.'
But jest as sweethearts allus have,
From Eve all through the years,
Sue held herself 'til Jim was gone,
Before she shed real tears.

Except that last night he was home
(So Sue told my gal, Nell),
She couldn't keep 'em all in check,
And cried a little spell.
"Now, honey, don't cry," Jim, he says,
"I'll get by this somehow—
There ain't no German scissor-bill
Can harm me, that I 'low."

"I reckon not, Jim," Susan sobbed,
"You are too big and brave
To let them cattle walk on you."
Says Jim: "Then, dearie, save
Them purty eyes of yours to smile—
I'm comin' back right quick."
Sue wept. "I know it, that ain't why
I cry and words all stick."

"Well, what's the reason, honey, then?"
Jim urged in his soft way.
Sue laid her head on his big chest
And cried, but wouldn't say.
'Til Jim he coaxed and cuddled her,
Then: "Jim, I just don't care—
Them Joans of Arcs—Oh, it's them—
Them Joans that's over there."

The Great Chowder Controversy.

The Pacifist Board of Scientists is in executive session. It now has before it one of the most intricate problems ever presented. It is: "When Is Clam Chowder?"

The problem has been referred to the Pacifist Board of Scientists by the Cooks and Waiters' Club of Skull Spring. The club had offered a valuable prize for the best clam chowder. Elimination reduced the contest to Sig Mac A. Roni, chef of the Hoover Inn, and M. Pomme D. Terre, chef of the Spruce Cafe.

M. Terre won by a narrow margin, but it developed that he had slipped a dozen oysters into the chowder, which lent a superior flavor thereto.

Sig Roni protested the decision. He contended that it was an underground trick typical of Pomme D. Terre and that when oysters were added the dish ceased to be clam chowder.

M. Terre maintained that if it were permissible to flavor clam chowder with onions and bacon it was permissible to flavor it with oysters.

The Skull Springs club decided to withhold final award until the Pacifist Board of Scientists could be consulted. That board discussed the problem for six hours and at midnight Dr. David Jarr Stordan came to the door and announced to the waiting reporters that the longer the board discussed the question the more momentous seemed the issue.

In view of the great public interest in the matter, said the doctor, it is possible the board will decide to call a convention of Professors of Domestic Economy.

Dr. Stordan expressed gratification that in these days of unseemly strife over issues of no National moment the thoughts of the people could be turned from wicked war plans to the arts of peace.