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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1918.

CONSCIENCE AND DUTY.

PORTLAND, Or., April 20.—(To the Editor.)—The public is told that a Liberty Loan bond is an investment. All right. I agree. But we are also told that it is the duty of everybody to buy who is able to buy; and we are also told that we "ought to buy till it hurts and then buy till it quite hurting." I agree. I am not so clear, however, that the decision as to what I shall do rests with others. If I am willing to buy till it hurts, or doesn't hurt, is not that my business? In other words, if a bond is an investment, why have I not the option of making that investment, within my means? Frankly I am mixed as to what I am free to do in the matter and what I must do at the demand of the public, whether I agree or not. Will you explain? READER.

If we understand our friend, he is entirely willing to do his full duty in the purchase of bonds, but he objects to any compulsion, legal or moral, about it. It is, in effect, the same old pacifist argument that support of the war is a matter of conscience; and that conscience is one's own, and the public is neither its keeper, mentor, nor guide.

Conscience, it may be conceded, belongs to its owner; but it would be a poor thing, indeed, if the moral standard every man or woman, consciously or unconsciously, sets up for his or her guidance, were not to be measured or corrected or strengthened by the thoughts, experiences, ideals and determinations of others. A poor thing, indeed. What a world, with every one doing as he pleased, unmindful of the opinions, good or bad, of others, and quite certain that he was right, and all others who did not have exactly the same kind of inner voice, and the same moral and spiritual outlook, were wrong. The cave of Adullam would be considered a haven of rest and concord in comparison.

Conscience and duty are as wide apart as the poles; yet the main trouble with your conscientious objector is that he regards them as identical. To him the act his conscience requires him to do, it is his duty to do; and if his conscience dissents, his duty is to dissent. In other words, there can for him be no definition or determination of duty except by himself.

Duty is obligation, obedience, submission. It is the moral compulsion to do right, and no man may do otherwise without transgression. The standard of right or wrong may not be erected by him, but by the universal judgment of society, which means all others and himself. Now, if one's conscience directs him to perform an act which all others say is wrong, it is quite clear that such a conscience is a perverted conscience. There is nothing else to say about it. Conscience, rightfully considered, is the power from within which demands right conduct by the conscience's owner; but he may not also say what is right conduct. Duty calls for right conduct, whatever conscience may say. It is, therefore, the first essential of conscience that it shall find itself in accord with duty, and not duty with conscience. Here is where your conscientious objector gets off the track.

The Nation is at war. It was the judgment of the Nation, through its representatives, duly authorized to speak and act, that it was the country's duty to go to war. Clearly, it is the people's duty to support the Nation in its action until the war is at an end. There are various ways of support—by enlistment in the Army or Navy, and by providing funds and supplies and the like. It cannot be conceded that the citizen may take his own method of service, any more than it can be conceded that he may or may not serve at all, for the Government has determined its duty, and it may also determine the citizen's duty. If he may say that he will not subscribe to a loan, solely because he objects to war, he may also say that he will pay no war tax, solely because he objects to war. The distinction, to be sure, is of moral or legal compulsion. The Government asks of the citizen a loan, and it is his duty to comply, if he can; it demands of the citizen a war tax, and he must pay.

That a war loan is an investment is due to the act of the Government in making subscription by the citizen of funds to carry on the war easy, attractive and profitable. It was the option of the Government to make it an investment, or not. If the citizen has also an option, it is purely nominal. For he has, and he must perform, his duty, within his means, to subscribe. If it be said that, while he may have such a duty, it is yet within his right to subscribe or not, then it must be concluded that the individual may or may not do his duty, as he pleases. It is a position which cannot be sustained.

Brazil has undertaken to stamp out Prussianism by the adoption of drastic measures, being confronted with a problem proportionately greater than that of the United States in the same respect. Whereas a large number of Germans came to the United States because of their love of liberty, those in Brazil represent a different generation with a different motive. They have gone to Brazil solely in their own interests and those of the Fatherland, have established their own schools and send their children to German universities, and seek only the society of their own countrymen. They have been described by a Brazilian statesman as seeking to build up a country within a country. The Brazilian government has issued orders for the teaching of Portuguese in the German schools and is now preparing to take over the custody of German business interests. The German population in the country is large, but has not won the sympathy of the inhabitants. It is also outnumbered by the Italians in the southern part of the country.

AIM TO MASSACRE ADMITTED.

German airmen have abandoned the pretense that the purpose of their raids on cities in territory of the allies is to destroy structures of military value. They frankly admit that their object is to inspire terror by killing women and children. That is the substance of an interview given by a captured German airman to an Italian newspaper. He said:

> We do not know and we do not seek to know where staff headquarters are, or where the great military depots of our enemies are. When we bombard a city it is the city itself we wish to destroy and the citizens themselves we wish to hit. Our purpose is to break down the resistance of the enemy countries, to weaken the spirits of the public, and compel a general longing for peace. When we bombard Paris, London or Padua, you will well understand that we do not look for military objectives. These are secondary for us.
>
> It is useless, therefore, for you to continue to lament if among the victims there is the inevitable woman and the inevitable baby. If they cannot take care of themselves so much the worse for them.

Experience should have taught the Germans that the barbarity of their raids is equalled by their stupidity. Instead of terrorizing the people into surrender to Germany, they have strengthened determination to fight to a finish. Before Great Britain adopted conscription every Zeppelin raid was followed by a boom in enlistment, so much so that speakers for recruiting took their stand on the ruins of houses wrecked by bombs. The taste of Prussianism which free peoples have had in war has given them a clear idea of what it would be under a German peace as a permanent and unescapable condition. They prefer small doses of it for a few years to adopting it as a steady diet for an indefinite period.

The Germans are proud of their knowledge of human psychology, as proved by their application of that science to the uses of war. They understand the psychology of an uneducated, half-barbarous people like the Russians who have never been really free, but they are densely ignorant of that of educated, civilized peoples who have long enjoyed freedom. It reacts to terrorism in a way directly opposite to the German expectation and promises to be one of the chief instruments of German defeat.

WEAPONS READY FOR AN INVADER.

Events of the war in Europe have illustrated how important a part is played by control of the enemy's natural and industrial resources. Germany's ability to continue the war and to win was greatly increased by conquest of the coal and iron fields and manufactures of Belgium, of the French coal fields in the department of Pas des Calais and of the French iron mines of Briey. The Briey mines probably more than replaced the ore which was formerly imported but which was shut out by the blockade. Conquest of Russian Poland gave the Germans coal, lead and zinc as well as much grain and livestock; that of Serbia gave them grain and hogs, also a copper mine which they have doubtless developed with the labor of enslaved Serbs; that of Roumania gave them oil, of which they were very short, the timber of the Transylvania Alps and much grain and cattle; that of Finland gives them timber and grain; that of the Ukraine opens the way to the coal and iron of the south, the oil of the Baku field, the cotton of Central Asia and Transcaucasia, and puts them in a position to obtain much grain as soon as they can put the people to work. By conquering the material resources of a country Germany obtains means to hold the people in subjection and to overcome her other enemies.

The consequence of continuing the present defenseless condition of the United States on the Pacific Ocean would be that, if major hostilities were extended to the Pacific, all the resources of this region would not only be lost to the Nation, but would be at the command of the enemy, for use in war against the Middle West, the East and the South. The enemy would gain a base on this side of the ocean for operations against the Rocky Mountain states and the great food-producing area of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, and, if he gained those sections, he could take the manufacturing states of the East in the rear, cut off their Western supplies of food and raw material and might starve them into submission.

The effect of our present condition of unpreparedness to maintain a superior fleet in the Pacific can best be conveyed by considering a single possible case. After winning a decisive naval victory in the Pacific Ocean, a hostile fleet might force its way past the forts at the mouth of the Columbia River, steam up to Portland and force the surrender of the city by threatening a bombardment which would lay it in ruins. The enemy could then make this the base of operations for an invading army. His forces could move up the Willamette Valley, taking defenders of the Coast range in the rear, also up the Columbia Valley. The gorge of the Columbia might be strongly defended. If it should be penetrated, the whole Inland Empire would be at the enemy's feet. If not, he would still be able to feed his army with the fish, grain, fruit and cattle west of the Cascades, to seize the ships and shipyards and use them for transport of more troops, to occupy the forests and cut timber for ships, aircraft and trench construction, and to seize the great spruce mill at Vancouver. In possession of our material resources and of our manufacturing industries, it would not be long before he would be turning out ships and aircraft, made of our own material, for further conquests.

If he should break through into the intermountain country, he would find food for his army in the grain fields, cattle ranges and orchards, coal for his railroads and ships at the mines of Roslyn and Cle Elum, lead in Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai, and copper in Butte and Kootenai to make ammunition. He could establish airdromes at the foothills of the Rockies, from which aircraft could raid the interior grain and cattle states.

Whatever is true of the Columbia basin is also true with variations of other sections of the Pacific Coast. In the Puget Sound district he would capture many shipyards as well as the Navy-yard at Bremerton, great sawmills, fish, fruit and meat canneries, coal mines, machine shops, vast areas of fir and spruce timber, and a base for attacks on British Columbia and Alaska. The latter territory, which is absolutely undefended, would supply coal, copper, gold, fish and reindeer meat. From San Francisco the rich valleys of the San Joaquin and Sacramento could be occupied, also the gold mines of the Sierra Nevada and the big redwood forests. From Los Angeles he could advance into the citrus fruit belt, the vineyards, the bean fields and the great California oil region, the last named supplying fuel to his fleet.

Wherever he effected a landing he would find material which could be forged into a weapon for conquest of more of our territory. A Western invasion would also relieve the pressure on the German army in France by forcing us to divert a large part of our forces to defense of our own country, and would thus add to the peril which overhangs democracy in Europe.

Any man who says that these dangers are too remote and hypothetical to occupy our attention while we are exerting our entire strength for the present struggle in France has not well learned the lessons of the war. It is only two years since the army of Grand Duke Nicholas was driving the Turks before it in Armenia and captured Trebizond, yet now the Turks are advancing through Russian Armenia to Transcaucasia and the Caspian Sea with a prospect of penetrating to Persia and Central Asia and a possibility of realizing their dream of a Pan-Turkish empire. It is less than two years since Brusiloff's Russian army was driving the Austrians before him and taking them prisoners by hundreds of thousands; Russia now has practically no army, and Austrian and German troops march unimpeded to the Black Sea coast. A year and a half ago the Roumanians were advancing through Transylvania toward Hungary; they have now accepted the terms of a victor from the central empires, and have made their country a highway for the Teuton advance to Odessa. When Russia, which two years ago was a powerful ally, has become to all intents and purposes a vassal of Germany, it is not safe and it may be suicidal to treat any danger as too remote for immediate consideration or to rely on any strength except our own.

To meet this danger it would not suffice to send the fleet to the Pacific. It might soon become impotent without adequate bases close at hand at which to repair and take on supplies. In a measure it is true that a fleet is no stronger than the capacity of these facilities. Those now existing would provide for only one-fifth of the American fleet, as it now exists, and before the facilities proposed by the Helm commission could be completed its strength will have been multiplied several times. The commission says that these facilities must be at least trebled to care for the existing fleet. Comparison of the present need with that which will exist when the big Navy programme has been carried out indicates how urgent is this need.

THE EMULATIVE SPIRIT.

The Department of Agriculture has hit upon a sound device for arousing the spirit of emulation among the food producers of the country by publishing from time to time the records of production by individual farmers under conditions which are described as nearly as possible. The county fair, especially in former days, showed how far the element of competition and personal pride entered into achievement. The biggest pumpkin, almost from time immemorial, has been surrounded by admiring crowds and no grower was hardened enough to be quite oblivious to the comments made upon it.

But the pumpkin is only a symbol of endeavor. It was useful for exhibition purposes because it was distinctly visible, was easily weighed and ripened conveniently at the season when county fairs are in their glory. There is not so much to be said of the pumpkin as a valuable article of food. But the competitive spirit which it typified produced results, and it is now regarded as desirable that this shall be stimulated on every hand. What can be done with pumpkins is measurably possible with the staple foods, with potatoes and corn and wheat—not chiefly in the size of the individual unit, but in yield per acre and in relative man power employed and in cost and methods of production.

The fact that stands out in these bulletins telling of remarkable instances of high production is not that yield should be greater than the average, but that it should be so many times greater. It is set forth that the average yield of corn for the whole country is twenty-four bushels to the acre, and one would not be at all surprised on learning that this is exceeded considerably by some growers. But the statement that some mere boys, organized into clubs, have been able to produce as high as 170 bushels to the acre is bound to start a train of thought.

The average production of oats for the whole country is given as thirty bushels to the acre. A few farmers have attained 140 bushels as the average of their entire plantings. It is true that they had some natural advantages, but their success is not attributable to that fact alone. Their methods had a good deal to do with it. And, obviously, the more widely these methods are copied the better it is going to be for the country as a whole.

WOMEN'S FITNESS FOR LABOR.

The view that women present an initial advantage in entering new fields of labor, by reason of their habitual abstinence from indulgences which contribute to physical degeneration in men, is expressed in an interesting pamphlet on "Women in Railway Service as Viewed From a Surgical Standpoint," written by Dr. E. O'Neill Kane. As a railway surgeon, the author is concerned primarily with the entry of women into railway work formerly performed exclusively by men, but his observations will apply to a wider field. He suggests that certain special forms of exercise will be required to fit women for their new fields, but he does not view the problem gloomily. The musculature of women, for example, is admitted to be below that of men, and this has led to accidents which previous training might have avoided. High-heel shoes, corsets, adornments which hamper freedom of motion, garments which may become entangled in machinery, and "similar female eccentricities" are mentioned, but not as insurmountable obstacles.

Even as against these temporary disabilities, which are likely to be corrected as women awaken to the seriousness of their new mission, there are compensations. Women, Dr. Kane has found, require less instruction in the principles of "safety first"; they are naturally more prudent. They are innately quicker in action and keener of perception. The "enervating influence of tobacco" seldom is encountered among them. They are found to be better adapted to dangerous employment than has been generally supposed. Injuries "will be found to be less frequent than where men are employed." But some are bound to occur, and the surgeon considers women's relative capacity for recovery.

Anatomically, women are found to possess a framework of lighter construction than men, but the bones, on the other hand, are denser and more elastic. Where fractures occur there is less tendency to comminution. There is less danger of infection, because clothing and skin are likely to be cleaner. Blood vessels and hearts of older subjects are better able to bear strain than in men of the same age, because of their "more near approach to normality."

The surgeon has another rap at John Barleycorn. He says the tobacco and liquor habits are seldom met with as vascular degenerators. Once more this point is emphasized in connection with discussion of the induction of anesthesia in men and women. The latter are safer patients, perhaps by reason of their more simple lives and "more temperate habits!" The tendency to hysterical manifestations, correctly ascribed to many women, is offset by improbability that few truly hysterical women would undertake the kind of labor under consideration. The surgeon is warned to treat women patients more tenderly than men, because of their more delicate organizations, but is also reminded that sympathy is not wasted on suffering humanity in any case. After-treatment does not differ greatly from that given to men, except that women are more exacting of attendants, but this, too, is atoned for by greater desire to get back to work and avoid losing their jobs.

Finally, the surgeon finds that women are more adaptable if disabilities prove permanent. They handle artificial limbs better than men do, and if placed in compatible employment soon show themselves as useful members of society as if physically perfect.

Women themselves no doubt will be surprised to learn of their points of physicial superiority. Upon the point of abstinence from liquor, they will need to look to their laurels, in a land that is rapidly going "dry"; but they are likely to maintain their lead as to tobacco. One by one, the obstacles to complete freedom of women are being swept away. Already the day seems to have dawned when choice of vocations will be left to women themselves.

JOSH BILLINGS AND OTHER HUMORISTS.

The centenary of the birth of Henry Wheeler Shaw, better known as Josh Billings, will not be formally celebrated by the literary world, but its occurrence this week serves as a reminder that the professional humorist was distinctly a product of the nineteenth century, and that the epoch in which American humor relied upon the device of heightening wisdom by contrasting it with illiteracy, as did Josh Billings and Artemus Ward in their misspelled homilies, has passed. We have since passed through an era of slang, and have developed dialect to a degree undreamed of a few years ago, and now we are waiting for another novelty. No people are so restless as Americans. Even in their reading they demand constant change. The philosophy of Josh Billings is as profound now as it was half a century ago, but it has ceased to impress us. His writings, once read by everyone, are not now even to be found on the shelves of many public libraries. "The Farmer's Alliminax," which had an enormous circulation in 1870, is treasured only as a curiosity.

Josh Billings himself defined humor as "a thing that is ludicrous and at the same time true." The definition left something to be desired, but it embodied the author's own literary policy. He employed incongruity in the manner and for the purpose for which others since his day have made use of exaggeration. But there was in Josh Billings' work a deeper moral purpose. "Next to a klear conshuns," he said once, "for solid comfort cums an eazy boot." And he gave a didactic turn to the surprising association of ideas by adding, "Try both!" "There is a great deal of religion in this world," he said at another time, "that is lik a life-preserver—only put on at the moment of extreme danger, and then half the time put on hind side before." This was a favorite quotation back in the seventies, and one that served to punctuate many an argument over a religion and relationship of sinners and saints. But Josh Billings was himself a deeply religious man. He was concerned with leading people into right paths without arousing their combativeness by seeming to preach to them. He did not believe in wasting time over nonessentials, as he indicated when he wrote:

> Menny people spend thar time trieing to find the hole whar sin got into the world. If two men broke through the ice into a millpond, they had better hunt for some good hole tew get out, rather than get into a long argument about the hole they cum to fall in.

It is said of Josh Billings that he was the first man in America to discover the "quaint drollery of inside laughter" that gave so much pleasure to the people of his day. His writings, like the personality of Mark Twain, heightened its effect by a certain owlish solemnity. His figures of speech were such as fitted the daily life of the people—they required no research, no cultural groundwork, no previous smattering of the classics for their comprehension. There was a kind of universality in the appeal of his commonplace subjects. He wrote no fewer than three paragraphs at different times to express his opinion of dogs and people who owned them. Even lovers of animals chuckled over: "I don't keep but one dog; no one but a pauper kan afford to keep three," or "If i had 4 fust rate dogs, i would name the best of them 'Doubtful' and all the other 3 'useless.'" It is a curiously interesting historical fact that Josh Billings' remarks on dogs are believed to have led directly to the enactment by the Massachusetts legislature of a law devoting the proceeds of a tax on dogs to the support of public libraries. A hint of the provocation of the author may be gleaned from the fact that the town in which he lived was said for a long time to have had the biggest library in proportion to its population of any city in the state—a library relatively larger than even that of Boston.

There will be no serious quarrel over who made widest, or first, use of what the reformers of the present day might call "phonetic orthography." Even Lowell did not disdain to employ it for his purpose, and Artemus Ward, Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby and the creator of Mrs. Partington worked various changes on it. The method seemed to fit a time when education was neither as common nor as much esteemed as it is now. It pleased the vanity of those who scoffed at books and made light of culture. We realize now that these writers understood their readers better than those readers understood themselves and that they led them by easy paths over roads upon which they could not have been driven. The feature of the old American humor was that it was good-humored. It left no sting. It was pleasantly impersonal. The author made himself the butt of his own jokes, but the reader saw the application. It was a style peculiarly fitted to Americans of a particular era. It was untranslatable, even into "English." John Bright attended a lecture by Artemus Ward in London, and said afterward that "its information was meager, and presented in a desultory, disconnected manner." He probably would have seen no humor in Mrs. Partington's statement, for example, that "only rich men and ipecacs have gout," which was a species of fun-making that was giving us much enjoyment on this side of the water at about the same time. But our professional humorists were real educators, although they probably would have disclaimed so serious an intent, and they did much good. Seba Smith, whose "Thirty Years Out of the Senate" was forgotten long ago, was widely influential in his day and way. The "Biglow Papers," letters from "Confedrit X Roads," and the lectures and writings of Artemus Ward had a more salutary effect than reams of tracts.

NOT A QUESTION OF COST.

Unauthorized estimates made in Massachusetts of the cost of employing tractors in farming operations, by which it was made to appear that considerable economies would result, by comparison with work done by horses, have made it advisable to correct the erroneous impression prevailing. This has been done by the master of the State Grange, who warns farmers against false expectations which may have been aroused. At the same time he points out that tractors should be employed as widely as possible, even if they do not effect a saving in money. The essential fact is that they will accomplish more work. It is necessary that as large an area as possible shall be put in cultivation. The crop area must be increased, even if not at a lower cost.

No good purpose will be served by raising false hopes of financial economies, which experience may dispel, creating distrust of the general movement toward wider employment of farm machinery. Putting the issue on the broader ground of patriotic duty leaves the farmer with no unpleasant after impressions and makes it clear that quantity production is the first consideration. This appeal is likely to be sufficient. For the present is not a time for quibbling about a few cents an acre in the cost of putting in the crop. By taking the farmers into their confidence, the agricultural authorities of Massachusetts are adopting the course most likely to insure complete co-operation and to produce results.

The policy of renting smaller machine-driven implements is having the effect incidentally of giving farmers greater familiarity with machinery and is popularizing its use. One obstacle to the general use of motor-driven machinery on farms has been lack of skilled mechanics to operate it and keep it in repair. But in that respect the farm motor is in a position similar to that of the automobile less than twenty years ago, when most drivers were helpless in the face of accidents. The average autoist of the present day has confidence in his ability to meet all ordinary emergencies.

The same condition is likely to be reached by farmers within a few years. This will be attained, as in the case of the automobile, by improvement in construction, and also by education of owners in the care of their machines.

THE DUEL OF THE CHEMISTS.

The dominant role of chemistry in the present war is pointed out in an article in the Yale Review, written by Dr. Julius Steiglitz, who holds that chemistry alone made the war possible in the very beginning, and is now responsible for the continuance of its ravages. For Germany deliberately planned the war, and never would have dared to do so if it had not been for the recent development of methods of converting atmospheric nitrogen on a large scale into ammonia and nitric acid.

These discoveries gave assurances of ample and constant supplies of explosives and fertilizers. Without this aid, Dr. Steiglitz declares, Germany would have been compelled to stake her national existence upon a speedy conquest such as she failed to achieve at the battle of the Marne. With Great Britain in control of the seas, there would have been neither food nor munitions for a prolonged war.

There are other interesting aspects of the chemical side of the conflict. Although poison gas has received wide publicity, it is not generally known that probably 20 per cent of all the shells fired on the western front are charged with chemical poisons or irritants rather than with shrapnel. "When Germany let go the first wave of poison gas, in contravention of all international agreements," says the writer, "it is said that the British General in command wired to London that if relief were not sent within three days the whole British lines would be compelled to retire."

It is now seen that the Germans again underestimated the resources of their foe. For although employment of the gas was a complete surprise, it is said that within only thirty-six hours a million and a half of the "first crude but sufficiently effective gas masks were delivered at the front." These masks have since been improved upon, and adapted to meet the new poisons employed by the enemy, but the point is that chemists on the line of defense, by their practically instantaneous action, held back the enemy at the most critical period of the war.

The adept in chemistry regards it as best on the whole that the materials used shall not be named. He recalls an incident in a London murder trial when a chemist was asked whether all poisons could be detected, and answered, "All but one." The judge forbade the chemist to reveal the dangerous secret. From similar motives, the War Department chemists are reticent as to the details of their work. But it is interesting to watch the duel of the chemists now that the allies have accepted the new gage of battle. Skilled minds are engaged in the effort to "surprise the enemy by some ingredient which cannot be absorbed by the common reagents of the gas mask." At the same time chemists are stationed at the outposts and in the trenches to detect the first signs of a chemical attack and to make speedy identification, if possible, of the materials used.

It is illustrative of the humane spirit underlying our own entry into the war, Mr. Steiglitz points out, that our own Government at first thought it would be possible to refrain from this method of attack. Our first organization of chemists was concerned with defensive measures only. It having become apparent that we must not fight on unequal terms with an unscrupulous foe, we now have organized divisions of gas offense and gas defense. A chemical unit under command of a Lieutenant-Colonel has been sent to France to, serve under General Pershing. It is the duty of chemists in the military service not only to perfect masks for present use, but also to anticipate chemical surprises which the enemy may attempt to spring.

Ardent German patriots are even now boasting that even if their country should fail to achieve her military ends, she would be in a position to dictate terms of peace through her control of the largest easily mined potash supplies in the world. Possession of potash would "determine exactly how productive the wheat, corn and cotton fields of a country would be permitted to be." The potash of the United States, theoretically plentiful, is chemically locked up; its segregation is so expensive as to be possible only as a war enterprise. Dr. Steiglitz regards the German boast as not altogether vain in present conditions. At the lowest estimate, Germany would hold a trump card in making trade terms that would set projected trade embargoes at naught. This points to a field in which American chemists can labor to their hearts' content. It is only one of many departments in which the chemist of the future will have use for all his energies and ingenuity and skill.

In the midst of a turbulent world, Iceland has found a spokesman to remind us that although among the smallest in numbers of the civilized nations of the world, never having had more than 70,000 inhabitants, she has a language, a national character and a body of traditions all its own. This spokesman is Jon Stefansson, lecturer in Icelandic at King's College, at London. He says that of all the civilized countries, it is the most wild and barren, nine-tenths of it consisting of snow mountains, glaciers and lava beds, yet the people for a thousand years have been intellectually vigorous and have produced a literature "both in poetry and prose that stands among the primitive literatures next after that of ancient Greece in quantity and quality." In recent years its political history possesses peculiar interest for the rest of the world, for it has won autonomy from Denmark after a bloodless constitutional struggle, and is practically independent. Notwithstanding its comparative isolation, the people are contented and seldom emigrate in search of happier conditions.

There are two departments into which the emulative spirit should enter in the coming season—the use of fertilizers, either natural or artificial, and the intelligent employment of farm machinery. It is generally admitted that for some time to come the labor problem will be a serious one. It is possible, and even probable, that this will operate against increased acreage. The call for more wheat, if answered upon the old basis of acre-averages, would demand that 22,000,000 more acres be planted than last year. But the effect would be the same if the yield per acre could be sufficiently increased, and costs would be relatively smaller. It is recognized that this is not an academic issue and that no farmer in the past has deliberately held down his yield per acre. But if it can be shown that in a given neighborhood, under fairly typical conditions, one farmer has made his acres produce in increasing amounts, it is hoped that his neighbors will be induced to study him and his ways and profit accordingly.

Wisdom of the almost hypercritical tests to which candidates for the aviation service are subjected is shown by revelations that many of the accidents occurring on training fields are now ascribed to physical defects which even the most searching examination has failed to detect. The British Royal Medical Service has made a series of investigations and has reported that many accidents probably have been due to temporary loss of consciousness during flight, brought on by previously undetected disabilities and aggravated by high altitude. To prevent needless sacrifices of Americans, a group of more than a dozen of the best-known trainers of college athletes have volunteered to take charge of conditioning men in the aviation fields, their services being offered from purely patriotic motives. Those who pass the double ordeal of examination for admission and conditioning by the trainers will find aviation, it is said, one of the safest branches of war service.

It was at Collinsville, Ill., that Robert Prager was lynched by a mob on suspicion that he was a German spy. It was at Collinsville, Okla., that Henry Rheimer was strung up on suspicion of disloyalty but cut down before death ensued. Why the Collinsvilles should take such steps in advance of other communities is not quite clear, but a precedent seems to have been established. It would be well for inhabitants of the other Collinsvilles to be guarded in speech and act. There are nine in the United States.

The report that Germany is building $200,000,000 worth of merchant shipping for use after the war is encouraging to those who think she ought to be compelled to make good the losses caused by her unlawful U-boat warfare. It will come handy to find those ships already built.

The world is pinning its hopes just now on that "army of maneuver" which Foch is said to be holding intact behind the lines, and Americans are hoping that we will have at least a million men in line when the real march forward begins.

Two things we can lay away without being charged with hoarding, it seems, are coal and liberty bonds. And the more sparingly we use the coal the more liberty bonds we shall be able to afford.

The joke seems to be on Austria, which is sending flour out of its own meager stores to feed those soldiers who went to gather the mythical food stores of the Ukraine.

Mexico ought not to worry about a "food crisis." All she needs to do is to put the people to work, in a land where two crops a year can be grown almost anywhere.

It is a good time to mention the fact that one good way to get rid of dandelions in the lawn is to plow up the grass and plant a war garden.

Those American engineers were only giving the Huns a foretaste of what is coming when more of our men get into action.

All that glistens is not gold. It may be platinum, which is even more essential to the winning of the war,

POEM LIEUT. McQUARRIE RECITES

Print of Verses Is Asked by Writer in Behalf of Self and Others.

SALEM, Or., April 19.—(To the Editor.)—I desire to obtain the words of a monologue so effectively rendered by Lieutenant McQuarrie at the Armory, Salem, the title of which is "Not Understood." I firmly believe I am not alone in my sincere wish to procure these verses, and that they will be more than appreciated by many of your readers. MRS. ALICE LAMB.

The verses follow:

NOT UNDERSTOOD.

Not understood. We move along asunder,
Our paths grow wider as the seasons creep
Along the years; we marvel and we wonder
Why life is life, and then we fall asleep;
Not understood.

Not understood. We gather false impressions
And hug them closer as the years go by,
Till virtues often seem to us transgressions,
And thus men rise and fall, and live and die;
Not understood.

Not understood. Poor souls with stunted vision
Oft measure giants by their narrow gauge;
The poison shafts of falsehood and derision
Are oft impelled 'gainst those who mold the age;
Not understood.

Not understood. The secret springs of action,
Which lie beneath the surface and the show,
Are disregarded; with self-satisfaction
We judge our neighbors, and they often go,
Not understood.

Not understood. How trifles often change us!
The thoughtless sentence of a fancied slight
Destroys long years of friendship and estranges,
And on our souls there falls a freezing blight;
Not understood.

Not understood. How many breasts are aching
For lack of sympathy Ah, day by day
How many cheerless, lonely hearts are breaking,
How many noble spirits pass away?
Not understood.

Oh, God! that men would see a little clearer,
Or judge less harshly where they cannot see;
Oh, God! that men would draw a little nearer
To one another; they'd be nearer thee,
And understood.

THE GREAT BANK.

There is one great bank wherein all
human beings are interested;
Wherein each man, some time, deposits
something to his credit.
There are those with large accumulations booked beneath their
name;
And others with moderate amounts, a
mere pittance, or a "closed account";
But each man, in his time, must be a
customer at this great institution.
Many times each year comes the individual who hopes, by "bluff," to
gain advantage.
He asks payment of checks that have
no real value nor "backing."
He endeavors, futilely, to collect interest on what he once possessed.
But which has long since been squandered and dissipated in foolish
ways.;
And he goes away, incensed at the
refusal of the bank to accede to
his demands!

This bank is Life. It pays back to
each investor only according to
his investment.
It yields to those who enter worthily
into its aims and purposes
A high rate of interest on every deposit made, be the depositor
prince or peasant.
But to those who will not and do not
place to their credit
Such services to mankind, such qualities and traits of character
As go to make up a sum total sufficient
to secure a rating
There is no interest accruing and no
"balance" upon which to draw in
emergency.
And that man, once worthy, who fails
to remain a part of the best citizenship
May not, later on, offer as defense or
recommendation his now "closed
account."

Daily depositors at this bank, with the
largest accounts on the ledger,
Are not those who come with display of
gold, silver or precious gems;
But those who, inspired by high ideals
and lofty aspirations,
Go forth into the highways and byways, forgetting self, and ministering cheerfully
Wherever human endeavor counts
most for human weal!

GRACE E. HALL.

THE HELPFUL BOOK.

Today I was
In a downtown store,
And as I passed through the big arched
door
I saw two smiling girls;
And they both wore the coif of white,
And the Red Cross, too;
And as they, smiling, looked at you
And quizzed:
"Have you read the little book?"
And somehow I was compelled to look.
And as I paused,
They told me why the many reasons I
should buy
The little book that held a message
from
The boys "over there"
From Oregon.
Then, in defense of my purse,
I said:
"I do not care to buy today,
For I have a boy who is on his way."
Again—
They smiled and made reply:
"More reason
You should want to buy;
The little book will tell to you
The things your boy will have to do."
Right then—
They struck a tender chord.
I bought the book;
And as I read I thanked my Lord
I had a son
Who was brave and strong, and that he
had gone
From Oregon. —PEE. VE. L.

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