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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1918.

WORK OF THE WAR CONGRESS.

In the session which has been interrupted by the recess, Congress has enacted a great code of war legislation for which the work of the preceding session was in many respects only preparatory, and in so doing it has added enormously to the power of the President and to the military effectiveness of the United States. It has well nigh completed the legislation necessary to devote all the manpower and all the material resources of the Nation to the single task of crushing German militarism.

The session began with a declaration of war on Austria-Hungary at the call of the President. Congress was ready to include Turkey and Bulgaria also in this declaration, but withheld action in deference to the wishes of the President. War with the dual monarchy has been followed by a great increase in the financial and material aid given to Italy, in the sending of a first contingent of American troops to that country and in an improvement of the morale of the Italian army, all of which contributed to the victory of Italy on the Piave and in the Alps. We may expect that the field of American operations will widen to include the Balkan peninsula, which would involve war with Turkey and Bulgaria. Only preoccupation with the deliverance of France, Italy and Belgium from the invaders delays American participation in the Balkan campaign, with a view to the emancipation of Serbia and Roumania and the isolation of Turkey from German aid.

A revolution has been effected in the economic life of the United States by the law placing the railroads in the hands of the Government for operation, and by the one recently enacted which makes like disposition of telegraph, telephone, cable and radio lines. Government price-fixing has also been authorized and a large measure of control has been established over the great basic industries. The Government has become the largest buyer of steel, coal, oil, lumber, copper, zinc, textiles, it has taken a monopoly of shipbuilding and it has forbidden sale of ships to other nations. An economical proportion of the population is employed directly or indirectly by the Government.

Laws to prevent and punish resistance or opposition to war activity fill a large place in the work of the session. Penalties have been provided for destruction of war material and munition plants, for disloyal acts or words, especially those designed to obstruct enlistment and the draft. The espionage act has been extended to women, and German women have been registered. Lawless organizations like the I. W. W. have been declared unlawful, the German-American Alliance has been dissolved, teaching of the German language in the schools of the District of Columbia has been forbidden, the sale of German-owned property has been ordered and entrance to and exit from the United States has been restricted by revision of the passport law.

Constant expansion of the armed forces has been provided by decision that young men shall register for the draft on attaining the age of twenty-one. The draft quota of each state has been changed to the basis of class I, instead of population. Organization of a Slavic Legion, training of Latin-American troops in the United States, increase of the Navy to 131,486 and of the Marine Corps to 75,500 men have been authorized. There is general agreement that age limits for the draft should be extended, but action on that subject has been postponed until after the recess, when the Secretary of War is to present recommendations. Provision has been made by treaty for draft by this country and Great Britain of their citizens in each other's territory, and measures have been taken against alien slackers. Civil rights of soldiers and sailors have been protected by establishment of a moratorium, and provision has been made for rehabilitation of those who return crippled.

Money for war purposes has been appropriated so liberally that any sum smaller than a billion dollars seems insignificant. During the fiscal year which opened on July 1 more than $12,000,000,000 is to be spent on the Army, a billion and a half on the Navy, eight billions for artillery and small arms, a second billion for airplanes, two and a half billions for ships, in addition to fifty millions for concrete ships, and a hundred millions for housing Government employes, to say nothing of such little matters as twelve millions for the Food Administration and eleven millions to stimulate food production.

All discussion and controversy in regard to the efficiency of our war preparations has ended in further addition to executive power. Delay in production of arms, ammunition and aircraft and deficiencies and defects in Army cantonments were attributed by Senator Chamberlain to lack of co-ordination among departments and bureaus, which could be secured only by establishment of a War Cabinet exercising supreme authority under direction of the President. Mr. Wilson replied to this criticism by co-ordinating functions and centralizing power under his own direction without the intervention of a War Cabinet, so far as the law permitted, and by asking for unlimited authority to rearrange the war agencies of the Government. He was given it by passage of the Overman law and was also given two additional assistant Secretaries of War. He skilfully countered on the Senate's move to investigate the aircraft failure by appointing his former rival for the Presidency, Charles E. Hughes, to conduct a full inquiry. Congress has become thoroughly complaisant toward him.

As usual, Congress has not done as well in raising money as in spending it, and that is the reason for the long session with a recess in the middle. It authorized the third Liberty loan, also the fourth with a maximum of $8,000,000,000, but shrank from the distasteful task of revising the miserable patchwork of a war revenue law which it passed last year, and it contemplated an early adjournment. It was sternly summoned to duty by the President, and has set its committees to work during the recess to find means of raising eight billion dollars a year by taxation and of eliminating profiteering, which the Federal Trade Commission has exposed. It shows no disposition to establish a budget, though the President has called for it and though the huge financial responsibilities of the war urgently require it.

War revenue, extension of the draft age and water power will be the principal subjects of legislation after the recess, with diversions in the Senate to discuss and vote on woman suffrage and immediate National prohibition. Even without these additions the achievements of the session have been so many and notable as to bear witness to the industry and patriotism of Congress.

A TIME FOR STRONG MEN.

The speech of Colonel Roosevelt at Saratoga, from which liberal excerpts are published in another column, is the more worthy of attention because on the day when it was delivered he had received news that one of his sons had been either killed or taken prisoner in France and because all of his sons are in the fighting forces. Those facts are the best proof that he is a 100 per cent American and that his words come from his heart.

From the long hesitation which preceded our entrance into the war and from our utter unreadiness when we did enter, the American people need to pay heed to certain things. One is study of the records of men who seek office and election only of 100 per cent Americans. The men whom they send to Congress need to be men of such sterling loyalty and at the same time of such independent character that, without regard to party, they will stand by the Administration on every measure when it is right and will speak out boldly and set it right when it is wrong. They should insist that the war be continued vigorously until Germany is overwhelmingly beaten and is forced to liberate every nation which the Kaiser has enslaved and to make full reparation for every wrong he has done. They should stand firmly against an inconclusive peace, which would but be a breathing spell before another war.

When Germany begins to realize that she is being beaten and that the longer the war continues the more crushing will be her defeat, another peace offensive will surely be started and will find a response among the fifty-fifty Americans and the camouflaged Germans who have for the time been silenced. That will be the time when this Nation will need men of unbending patriotism, clear foresight and strong will in places of power to insure that this war shall so end that, so far as is humanly possible, it shall be the end of war.

We need also men who will make sure that never again shall this Nation be so utterly unprepared to defend its liberty, and, with that, the liberty of the world as was the case in April, 1917. We have had a lesson in this war which should be burned into our hearts and should be handed down in full force to our children. There have been moments in the last few months when the fate of democracy the world over seemed to hang on a hair, chiefly because this Nation was unready, though warning had been plainly given by the events of the last few years. Never again should this Nation risk its life and the life of democracy in the world at large by such heedlessness of danger. Now, when the cloud seems to be lifting, is the time to take that lesson home.

One of the greatest of the many great services which Colonel Roosevelt has rendered to his country is that he has never rested from lifting up his voice in exhortation and warning. Now, when all recognize the truth of what he has said during the last four years, the people again incline to him and heed him.

GERMAN A DEAD LANGUAGE.

Nothing short of profound contempt for all the institutions of a nation which has placed itself without the pale of civilization could have accomplished the sweeping results noted in the movement to discontinue the teaching of the German language in the schools of the United States. A recent survey made by John Walker Harrington, the results of which are recorded in the New York Times, shows that instruction in the German tongue has fallen off between 50 and 65 per cent in America since the war began, and that by the opening of school in September it will be near the vanishing point.

Official action hostile to teaching German has been taken either by state or local authorities in thirty-six of the forty-eight states of the Union. This is a three-fourths vote, but it does not adequately measure popular disapproval, because in the other states the language is disappearing from curriculums through failure of pupils to elect it. There is already a practically total absence of German study in the elementary schools of all the states, it is being dropped from high schools except where students are completing work for college credits, and normal courses in the Summer schools this season were generally abandoned for lack of applications.

Efforts to induce colleges and universities to withdraw credits for German for entrance to the freshmen classes have not been altogether successful, but it is plain that the German classes in institutions of higher learning will be depleted by natural methods within a few years. The "language of Schiller and Goethe" is being eclipsed by French and Spanish in the cultural field and by these and Russian and the Oriental languages where the ruling motive of the student is utilitarian. When Germany elected to substitute "kultur" for culture, it forfeited its right to a place among the moral and intellectual leaders of the world.

Virtual abolition of the study of German is not a mere ebullition of chauvinism. A certain amount of animosity toward all things Teutonic was to have been expected as a result of German conduct, but the language movement has a deeper foundation. It is now realized that we have been playing into the hands of German propagandists for a long while. For illustration, the following passage from the official quarterly of the League for Germanism in Foreign Lands:

> Work rendered in the interest of the German school is a noble service rendered to the German nation, for the most effective means of perpetuating Germanism in foreign lands is the school. Within its sacred walls the strange land is transformed for children and teachers and parents into a fatherland.

It has required a National crisis to awaken us to the fact that an attempt was being made systematically to denationalize us. That is at the bottom of the whole anti-German language movement. We do not want to "perpetuate Germanism," since we have discovered just what Germanism really is.

WHERE IS HE?

It would be interesting to discover what has become of the dyed-in-the-wool hobo who was so numerous only a few years ago. It is not probable that he has been shamed into going to work, for he has usually been impervious to moral suasion, and his numbers have not been appreciably changed by industrial conditions. In busy season and slack, he used to keep on the move, proud in his boast that he never had worked and never would work.

But it is now clear that he has gone—somewhere—for he no longer knocks at back doors, he is missing from the railroads and travel on the turnpikes does not account for him. For years, particularly in the West, he was a type, always lazy, always roving, but not often criminal. His wants were few, constant change of scene being chief among them. Small communities used to temporize with him, because it was cheaper to pass him along than to feed him at the public expense.

But now he has practically disappeared, without leaving a trace behind him.

FITTING MISFITS.

The new undertaking of the Young Men's Christian Association, which proposes to get at the bottom of the problem of the human misfit, to readjust the life of the man who is living a "practically useless and non-efficient existence," as the news story expresses it, and to equip him for a definite task in the world, recognizes one of the defects in the present educational system and seeks to repair the damage done before it is too late. One of the world's sad sights, especially in these times when there are so many calls to service, is the man who has failed to find his niche. Not all such men are lazy, and some even possess ambition of a kind, but for one reason or another they are out of joint with the times. They are employed in uncongenial or unprofitable occupations, they look bitterly upon those who have succeeded where they have failed, and they attribute their own shortcomings to every cause but the right one.

In this effort the service department of the Y. M. C. A., of which Mr. Acheson is the head, will not be much guided by a standard literature. There is overproduction of books purporting to tell men "how to succeed," and a dearth of practical formulas offering any definite promise of a cure. Efficiency seems to be a favorite topic for the inefficient to write upon. The "how-to-succeed" books fail to help the unfortunate to understand himself, which they should do first of all; they do not aid him in taking hold of a tangible reality; they furnish no starting point. When a man with no particular vocation, or a vocation for which he is entirely unsuited, has read one of them he is as much bewildered as before.

It is not uncommon to come upon an advertisement in the "Situations Wanted" column of any newspaper, in which the advertiser betrays lack of aim in every line. There is often a real tragedy in such a phrase as, "Will some one give employment of any kind to a willing young man? Can do anything; is handy with tools." For the fact is, as any employer knows, that "can do anything" means can do nothing well enough to count, and willingness alone does not atone for utter lack of ability to do some one thing well. Not many replies are received by advertisers of this class. The employer who reads the column usually has definite ideas of what he wants. He is not impressed. The willing young man goes jobless, and if he is tempted sometimes falls into a career of crime.

The world in normal times is filled with the type of young man who, if he were thrown out of his present employment, would not know what kind of a job to look for. When he left school he took the first work that was offered to him. It may have been washing bottles, or driving a jitney, or wrapping parcels. His immediate superiors have troubles of their own and no pains is taken with his further training. He lacks initiative, and in the first dull season he is laid off. Subsequent experiences are repetitions of the first. There comes a time when he is a man with the working capacity of a boy. Unemployment is not always the gravest phase of his existence. Sometimes he falls into a rut in uncongenial work which he is afraid to leave for fear that he will starve.

The problem is highly individual, and the first necessity is a concrete system of self-analysis under the direction of vocation experts. It is possible to learn more about a man than he knows himself by some of the modern methods in vogue. He will be asked a series of questions seemingly unimportant in themselves, but which taken together will furnish a clew to where the trouble lies. The experts will want to know, if he had opportunity to attend a prizefight, a lecture on psychology or a minstrel show, which he would choose, and why. It will not necessarily be to his discredit that he does not prefer the lecture. He will be asked a good many questions about his dissatisfaction with his former employment. It may be that he is a bookkeeper who grows so weary at his work that he cannot plan ahead after the day is done. It may be, and it often is, true that he only needs physical training or spectacles that fit his eyes. Little things have often proved turning points in the lives of men. It is not enough merely to send one to another "job," for which he may be as unfitted as he was for his last one. The plan is to awaken his interest, to surprise him into revealing the secret of his apathy, and then to lead him until he has developed strength to walk alone.

A difficulty which confronts the vocational expert is the inability of the misfit to estimate himself with even approximate accuracy. Curiously enough, the failures in life nearly always think that they have done everything needful to succeed; it is luck that is against them. The scientific vocational questionnaire sets traps for such as these. "Would you rather lead or follow in an adventure?" is asked. The answer always is, "Lead." "Are you intensely energetic?" Nine answers out of ten are "Yes." Away down on the list comes the question, "What do you do when you have leisure time?" More than one "energetic" young man, who thinks he was born to lead in important affairs, quite betrays himself by such an answer as "Rest." Self-candor, as distinguished from morbid introspection, requires the element of surprise. But it is believed that a set of questions can be devised which at least will furnish a working basis for further examination.

The self-analysis chart is an attempt to "seek back through a man's life to a point where he made choices naturally." The next step in the plan is to enlist the aid of men of reasonable success and genuinely sympathetic nature in the vocation which it is thought the "patient" should consider. All the data available are put at the disposal of the selected friend. At this point the scheme becomes a kind of "big brother" movement, with the practical advantage that a scientific diagnosis has been made before the cure is attempted.

Much will be accomplished if the new department succeeds in awakening in the misfit the spirit of the emigrant, the confidence of the pioneer. The emigrant one time in his life cut loose from everything to which he was accustomed and struck out into a new, strange world. The misfit is asked to emigrate in a slightly different sense. If the spirit of adventure can be aroused in him, and the inhibitions of the past removed, he will have been in a sense reborn. It is not altogether because the new is a land of special opportunities that the emigrant so often succeeds, but partly because of changes within himself. The movement is fascinating in its possibilities, highly promising in the hands of men not too much given to theorizing, and particularly interesting at this time because of the problem which will confront the country when the men of our Army return to civil life. It would be a fine thing for the country if demobilization could be accomplished without adding to the number of vocational misfits already demanding consideration.

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

News that the second term of the training school for Army chaplains is now drawing to a close at Louisville will convey to a good many persons for the first time the information that there is in the Army an educational institution devoted exclusively to fitting men for the peculiarly exacting duties of this branch of the service. Those who have had a vague notion that the chaplain was chiefly a preacher while in the Army, as he may have been out of it, and that his principal duties consist of holding perfunctory services on Sundays and conducting burial rites for the dead, will revise their opinions upon contact with the facts. Not only the increase of our regiments in numerical strength, but growing realization of the value of moral forces in the making of a good soldier, has made the chaplain's office increasingly important.

As to the kind of man likely to make an efficient chaplain, experience has shown that he ought to be in general such a one as would make a good officer in another branch, with a certain understanding of the mental and spiritual needs of men substituted for the other's technical military skill. The indefinable quality which we call "leadership" he must possess, as a matter of course, and it is essential that he shall be courageous and shall inspire the confidence of his men. It is rather necessary that he shall be physically fit in the highest degree, for he will be called upon to share hardships common to the command. He must be practically indefatigable, for with our regiments of three thousand men and never more than two chaplains to a regiment, there is always a call upon his time and energy. It is unnecessary that he shall be either an eloquent pulpit orator or a preacher of the evangelist type, but he must possess the solid virtues and carry them in a way that arouses the spirit of emulation. The right kind of chaplain will have opportunities for doing good such as are given to few men in a lifetime. The perfunctory one might better have remained at home.

The list of virtues which are not only desirable but essential would seem to constitute a rather large order to fill, but, fortunately, there seems to be no lack of material. The "call" is still heard, and the spirit of consecration exists in increasing abundance. It is so plain by this time that this war is a deadly serious business that no man who is looking for an easy berth is likely to offer himself. Even the chaplain's job is no place for a non-resisting pacifist, and more than one chaplain has already given his life on the battle front. It is not expected that he shall fight with gun and sword, but he must be of the type who the boys believe would brave any peril for their sakes. The kind of chaplain whom the soldiers like to shield from danger is the one who does not ask them to do it.

The school for chaplains is suggestive in the respect that it points to the need of special training for every branch of service these days. There is a technical side to pretty nearly everything, even a chaplaincy. And another thought which obtrudes itself is that the benefit is far from being onesided. The training and experience will greatly increase the capacity for usefulness of the minister after peace is restored. It will be a privilege to be able, in the years to come, to address some millions of men as comrades of the great war, and these men will be no more than human if some of them do not listen just a little more respectfully to the preacher who has been one of them. The chaplaincy in the Army is not only an opportunity for present service, but the open doorway to a permanent career.

Until recently we associated the use of the tractor in farming with such grains as wheat, oats, rye and barley, but recent demonstrations in the corn belt have shown that it is valuable there. The fact that the tractor is not regarded as profitable upon plantings of less than 130 acres, and that its economies are most apparent where the acreage exceeds 200, has had a desirable tendency to cause increase of planted areas. It is not difficult to induce a farmer to increase his planting, where he owns the land, where it can be shown that not only his gross income but also his profits per acre will be considerably increased. One of the chief advantages of the tractor in the corn belt lies in its superior ability to work in heavy ground. It cannot supplant horses in many other departments, but it can greatly reduce the number required for the farm. It is particularly encouraging to know that farmers generally are mastering the mechanical problems involved.

WAR TRAPSHOOTING.

Those German newspapers which think American soldiers are using shotguns in their raids because they lack skill with the rifle will be undeceived when our wing shots get to the front. An enthusiastic sportsman who writes in the Scientific American says that a shotgun in the hands of an experienced quail hunter would "nail every hand grenade rising from a German trench and kick it back."

The grenade would be struck within five yards of the throwing trench every time and probably would explode to the great discomfiture of the thrower. Even the adept at clay pigeons, unknown angles, would find it a sporting proposition—either hit the bomb or be killed by it. And there are trapshooters in nearly every community who could make a hit nearly every time.

The fly in the ointment is the "nearly." It would be a kind of sport in which it would be fatal to miss.

JAMES BUCHANAN AND THE UNION.

A proposal to erect a statue to James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States, in Washington, led to a sharp discussion in the Senate recently on the motives and services of Buchanan to his country, in the ante-bellum period, and provoked outright assault on his loyalty by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, although the scholarly representative of the New England state later sought to modify the gravity of his accusation by the statement that the disloyalty was in his acts and not in his intent—a distinction which he did not make entirely clear, possibly because it does not exist. An able and thorough, if not entirely convincing, defense of Buchanan was undertaken by Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania—the state from which Lincoln's predecessor came.

It is curious and instructive to note that the debate was confined entirely to Republican Senators, just as many of whom arrayed themselves on Buchanan's side as assailed him. The Democratic Senators remained silent; but it must have been a source of satisfaction to them that to the President who closed the long era of National control by the Democratic party before the continuous Republican interregnum which ended only with the election of Cleveland in 1884 there was an attempt to do historic justice by many members of a party opposed to him. The resolution to permit placing of the statue, from funds bequeathed by Harriet Lane, a niece of Buchanan, was adopted by a vote of 51 to 11, of whom all the latter were Republicans but one—Hitchcock of Nebraska.

The controversy over Buchanan at another time would have excited great interest, and probably have revived something of the rancorous dispute throughout the Nation which has always attended consideration of his record. But the newspapers, owing doubtless to press of war news, gave it but little space and the decision of the Senate was accepted quietly, probably with the thought by the public that it is well to bury forever all personal and political resentments over the civil war and its causes. Yet it may be doubted if a plan to memorialize in Congress the life and career of Jefferson Davis, conspicuous as they were even before the great National breach, would now be so placidly received; nor is there any sign that it will be attempted.

Senator Lodge's address was a citation of many biographical authorities and of official documents, with the testimony of public men who had a share in the disturbing events of the late days of the fifties. Buchanan had had a long, honorable and even distinguished public record before his election to the Presidency in 1856. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1791, so that he was 65 years old when he was made President, older than any other before or since except Jackson in his second term. In his early days he was a federalist, but he became a Democrat, had legislative experience, was elected Representative in Congress, was minister to Russia, then U. S. Senator for ten years, until made Secretary of State under Polk—a period that covered the Mexican war and the Oregon question. In 1853 he was nominated by Pierce minister to Great Britain and there he signed the Ostend manifesto, proposing the purchase, or if necessary the conquest, of Cuba by the United States. It was a project highly pleasing to the Southern Democracy, then engrossed in its schemes of territorial extension to preserve the National balance in the interest of slavery. It led to his nomination and election as President.

During peaceful times, James Buchanan might have been a capable President. But in the storm that broke over slavery, his hand at the tiller was too feeble to steer the ship of state into calm waters. No one indeed could have done it by conciliation or negotiation; but the thought, training and affiliation of Buchanan identified him with the Southern Democracy, and in the development of the National consciousness against slavery and the National will for the Union, he was not able to maintain either himself or sustain his party in power. Buchanan, a lawyer, and a very able one, was a strict constitutionalist; and his interpretation was in accord with the great body of legal opinion of the time, which found warrant for human slavery, and for state rights, and failed to regard the Federal power and interest as supreme. The favorite theory was that the Federal Government and the state governments represented co-ordinate and harmonious sovereignties, each supreme in its own field; but in the end the attempt to define the separate jurisdictions of the two necessarily broke down. Buchanan was for the Union, however. There is no reasonable doubt of it. He declared in his last annual message, and in other public expressions, against secession, and he had undoubtedly an earnest conviction that the Union should be preserved. But he took the anomalous position—strange now, but familiar then, and shared by a very large number of public men and other citizens—that while a state had no right to secede, the Federal Union had no right or power of coercion against secession. This was the central thought of his famous farewell message in 1860, after Lincoln had been elected, and while Buchanan was the Presidential locum tenens.

"I think," said Senator Seward, "that the President has proved two things: (1) that no state has a right to secede unless it wishes to; and (2) that it is the President's duty to enforce the law unless somebody opposes him."

President Buchanan, facing the revolt of South Carolina, had received from that state a demand to turn over the National property within the state limits, and he had declined, with some show of firmness, and with a declaration of purpose to execute the laws. It was here that Buchanan, who had followed the general course defined by the secession members of his Cabinet—Lloyd, Cobb, Thompson—broke away and joined with Black, Dix, Holt and Stanton, who were for the Union. Meanwhile General Cass, Secretary of State, had resigned in sheer disapproval of the December message, which indeed pleased neither North nor South; and the Southern members, too, left, and the President contented himself with a policy of marking time until President Lincoln should relieve him. Meanwhile, he had suffered his disloyal Secretary of War to divert a great part of the National properties to the South—an act which was probably without Buchanan's knowledge, or at least without a thorough appreciation of its intent.

Senator Knox's defense of Buchanan was largely a reproduction of the approving judgment of various commentators—his biographer, George Ticknor Curtis, a New Englander, chief among them—and a showing that the Buchanan course was precisely the policy proclaimed and adopted by President Lincoln in the early days of his administration. He was anxious to avoid civil war, and so was Lincoln; he was willing to conciliate the South if possible, and so was Lincoln; and he was determined not to be the first to shed human blood, but so was Lincoln. It is not to be forgotten that so great a voice of the Republican party as Horace Greeley would have "let the wayward sisters depart in peace," and there was a powerful sentiment everywhere to avoid war. Senator Knox was able to make a remarkable case for Buchanan, quoting many strong expressions for the Union and even for the assertion of the Federal power. But Senator Lenroot countered with a quotation from Buchanan's anomalous December message and another from Lincoln's Inaugural address. Said President Buchanan:

> Without descending to particulars, it may be safely asserted that the power to make war against a state is at variance with the whole spirit and intent of the Constitution. Suppose such a war should result in the conquest of a state; how are we to govern it afterwards? Shall we hold it as a province and govern it by despotic power? In the nature of things, we could not by physical force control the will of the people and compel them to elect Senators and Representatives to Congress and to perform all the other duties depending upon their own volition and required from the free citizens of a free state as a constituent member of the Confederacy. But if we possessed this power, would it be wise to exercise it under existing circumstances? The object would doubtless be to preserve the Union. War would not only present the most effectual means of destroying it, but would banish all hope of its peaceful reconstruction. Besides, in the fraternal conflict a vast amount of blood and treasure would be expended, rendering future reconciliation between the states impossible.

Said President Lincoln:

> In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you; you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect and defend it."

There can be no doubt about the meaning and intent of Lincoln, which was to throw the onus of war upon the South, but to resist with force; while the Buchanan declaration was a plain invitation to secession.

It has been said that it is unfair to weigh Buchanan and his administration in the clouded and hostile light of his time or by the partisan judgment of his critics. It is true. It is just to remember, however, in any attempted parallel between his policies and Lincoln's, that Lincoln was elected in protest against the purposes and principles of the party which elected Buchanan, and with the avowed design of defeating and reversing them. It was inevitable that a President elected as Buchanan was, and surrounded as Buchanan was by representatives of the South, should be in harmony with the general intent of his party unless he was willing to break with the leaders and confound the democracy. He did neither. He sought a middle course, and he failed. Andrew Jackson rose to his full stature as a President and as a loyal defender of the Union and supporter of his oath when he struck nullification dead in the designed secession of South Carolina—at the "threshold of treason" he called it. Buchanan as Senator was a firm and effective follower and adviser of Jackson; yet he profited nothing by the example of the illustrious Democrat.

The strength of the Liberty motor does not lie in adaptability to every kind of aircraft, but in the fact that it is machine-made and standardized, making quantity production possible. It is in this field that Americans excel. Nothing is gained by making extravagant claims which cannot be justified by events. The truth about the Liberty motor is good enough.

We can sympathize with the Russians who are reported to be suffering from a famine in shoes. At the rate they are rising in price in this country only shipworkers and millionaires will be able to buy them before long.

There will be joy among the bantams over the ruling which lets men five feet tall into the Army. If soldiers were measured by the inch, Napoleon never would have been heard from.

Write cheerful letters to the boys in the trenches, or else don't write. If they can endure trench life, the people at home have no troubles to tell them that are worth mentioning.

It need not be forgotten that every day is still thrift stamp day. When in doubt about what to do with a quarter, buy a thrift stamp. If still in doubt, buy another.

The confirmed loafer is finding it more and more difficult to keep from working. It is a jolt to some fellows to find that even money will not save them.

The long-expected "surprise blow" on the western front was a surprise, all right, but not the kind the Crown Prince thought it was going to be.

Turkey and Bulgaria quarreling over the spoils of war furnish a fine example of counting chickens before they are hatched.

Rain has been falling at various places several hundred miles around Portland, but the city remains an island of drought.

A good way to tickle the vanity of a middle-aged man is to ask him for his registration card.

"Whale pot roast" sounds better when we have read on to "ten cents a pound."

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, irrelevant and immaterial opinion, new verse and anecdotes.

TOO TRUE; TOO TRUE.

Oh, McAdoo, oh, McAdoo,
Is there anything else that you can do?
Liberty bonds we get from you,
For war-tax drags you give the cue,
We cannot ride on the fast choo-choo
Without the consent of McAdoo.

Oh, McAdoo, oh, McAdoo,
Is there anything else that you can do?
Woodrow's captain, you're the crew,
All of his orders you put through,
You give us the pep and we kerchoo!
Oh, W. S. S. McAdoo.

Oh, McAdoo, oh, McAdoo,
Is there anything else that you can do?
When the kid waked up with a loud boo-hoo,
Say, didja walk the long night through?
If you ne'er did that, for you, poohpooh!
You don't know what work is, McAdoo.
—JOB.

* * *

THAT PUZZLING FRENCH.

It was on the Associated Press circuit and war news was on the wire:
"Elite German armies are engaged
* * * * * *"
"How many German armies?"
"ELITE."
"How many is that?" editor asks.
"How do I know? Send a message."

* * *

PAT IS PUZZLED.

"Ireland is bitterly opposed to conscription."—News Item.

A quare thing I'm seein' the mornin',
And faith, I can't think that its roight;
The hidlines the paypers adornin'—
That Irishmin don't want to foight.

Sure, Ireland's proudest tradition
Is "foight at the dhrap of the hat";
For foighting is our ambition,
No schpalpeen can bate us at that.

Why, aven the cats of kilkenny
Fought till they intirely were gone;
You're knowin' that there wasn't any
To carry the scrimmagin' on.

Ameriky now is a nation,
The peace-lovin' wan on the map,
A country wid no reputation
For schtarting a bit of a scrap.

But dhrafted min, laughin' and jokin',
A soight that is good for sore eyes;
Their friends, tho wid grafe they are chokin',
A waving thim schmilin', good-byes.

They've tackled the job, and they'll do it
Widout any whinin' or fuss,
And har-red as it is they'll go through it—
Are Yankees, then, braver than us?

I'll niver, no niver belave it,
Whativer the paypers they say—
That blissed old Ireland, God save it,
Is shirking her juty today.
—Addie Antrim Snook, Ridgefield, Wash.

The Practical Mind.

A correspondent who signs the name "Equal Rights" writes to say that, as one who has to do all his smoking in the garage on one day of the week in order that the color and natural odor of the lace curtains in the house may be preserved, he is opposed to smokeless Tuesdays. "If worst comes to worst, and it couldn't be much worse," remarks Equal Rights, "let's make it Sunday."

But the Fish Was Not Sweetened.

He worked hard and earnestly to put Portland "over the top" in the liberty loan, Red Cross and other drives. Employs labor and encourages it in every way to economize and buy war bonds and stamps. The Government had requested abstemiousness in the use of sugar, but this was two weeks before they took the sugar bowl away from us. His lunch consisted of:

One glass of iced tea.
One small piece of fried halibut.
One dish of rice over which had been poured a sweetened sauce.
One large slice of layer cake with a very sweet filling.
One section (one-quarter) of sweetened berry pie.
Two thin slices of bread with one small pat of butter.
Four heaping teaspoonfuls of sugar went into the tea, followed by the juice from a quarter section of lemon. This was left lightly stirred and, as sugar melts slowly in a cold liquid, most of it remained in the glass.
Five spoonfuls of sugar went on top of the sweetened rice and four more on the berry pie. The cake and fish managed to escape.
G. R.

OUR HAIR-TRIGGER POETS.

It was Thursday evening. The news of the great American offensive was still hot. It was also the time of the regular monthly meeting of the Society for the Suppression of War Poetry.
The discussion turned to the deplorable state of unpreparedness in which the war found this otherwise great and glorious nation. It was freely admitted by the few undismayed and still courageous members of the society engaged in this noble undertaking that the general state of unpreparedness had not extended to the poets. They were ready.
Almost at the instant that this proposition went to unanimous vote, a special messenger brought in the following from Mr. Louis C. Miller. It had already been endorsed and approved by the National Board for the Suppression of the Metric System.

PERSHING'S DRIVE.

Oh! listen to my story,
It will not take long to tell.
How the Kaiser in his glory,
Saw the lurid fires of Hell,—
When Pershing bucked the line.

Like a peacock on its perch,
Sat the Kaiser on his throne.
He was Lord of all creation,
Claimed the universe for his own,—
When Pershing bucked the line.

There was neither parley nor old guff;
The drive it started and ended mighty quick.
Bill the Kaiser, he had to stand the gaff;
And I'm telling you it made him awful sick,—
When Pershing bucked the line.

Now the Kaiser he is happy,
In his cottage by the sea.
But he often does get snappy,
When telling of the power he used to be,—
Before Pershing bucked the line.

Fishing as Usual.

ABERDEEN, S. D.—John D. Smull, editor of the Summit Independent, is a sportsman and a lover of Nature, and all that, but he questions if a recent fishing expedition taken by him paid in dollars and cents. Smull belongs to an organization known as "The Truthful Fisherman's Society," and submits the following report: Cost of trip, $5.50; fish caught, bass, 0; pike, 0; pickerel, 0; croppies, 0; perch, 2; weight of fish, 1 pound; value of fish, 10 cents; miles rowed, 900.—Publishers' Auxiliary.