

PITILESS PUBLICITY UNPRACTICED THEORY

Censorship and Propaganda
Pull Wool Over Eyes.

AMERICAN SYMBOL GOAT

United States Headed Straight for
More Than 57 Varieties of Over-
seas Difficulties, Says Dr. Ellis.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.
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CAIRO.—More than one resident American—the simon-pure, who wears Hicks nobody's boots, and has no local social aspirations or political ambitions—has been heard to lament that America is not getting a square deal in the news from Europe and the east. He wonders why the home papers never talk as candidly as do folk out here about the various nations and projects that hold the center of the world stage. "If people only knew—," is a twin phrase to "Wait till the people back home find out!"

This blunt and diplomatic type of American holds fast to an old and apparently outgrown notion that the first concern of Americans is America; and that in our country, which is a democracy, everybody is entitled to know all the facts in any situation that commits the nation. His is the old-fashioned theory called "pitiless publicity." Theoretically, we have no permanent official classes, in whose swelling bosoms repose secreted policies too high and dangerous for the common crowd to handle. Our old-fashioned Yankee abroad would, if he had his way, hurt out the truth about the most important international situations.

He has watched, rather cynically, the almost hysterical interest of his country in the suits of France, of Belgium, of England, of Italy, of Serbia, of Armenia, of Roumania, of Greece. Now he thinks it time for an equally enthusiastic cult to be developed in behalf of the United States of America.

American Symbol the Goat.

Everybody knows that America has for five years past been the international easy mark. We have been everybody's spending money. Some of us have seen American war chests sent abroad fairly quarrel with one another over which first saw a certain rat hole into which it could pour coin bearing the stamp of the eagle.

Speaking of eagles, I wonder that long ere this, some truth-loving patriot has not proposed that the American national emblem be changed from the eagle to the goat. For we are the world's goat. The eagle has been vision; the goat cannot see. The goat is between a tin can and a bed of lettuce; the eagle soars to his own clear heights, the goat is kept browsing on the back lot. And the goat bears all blame and all unpleasant responsibility. It does not even have to be stroked and petted. Ask any returned soldier what he thinks about the goat as an American emblem.

Facts Are Kept Back.

America is headed straight for more than 57 varieties of overseas difficulties. And it is all because the folks back home cannot get the facts—facts fully, freely and fearlessly stated. Every correspondent abroad who understands that international amity is far more important than information for Americans. If we were to tell all that we know, some dear silly feelings might be ruffled—and that, of course, is a far more serious catastrophe than for America to fall into even the deepest of international pits. Alien sensibilities are more precious than American rights; everybody knows that.

Besides, correspondents are not permitted to write frankly. The censor won't let them. As one who has seen the blue pencil of that anomaly—"an officer and a gentleman," who is also a concealer and a corrupter of the truth—the censor, British, French, Italian and Greek, compel me to state less than the full facts upon grave international matters wherein my country has a stake. I can write feelingly upon this point.

Censorship is not merely an annoyance to the press; that would be relatively unimportant. The really sinister and menacing aspect of censorship is that it strikes directly at the heart of the basic principle of democracy, which is that public action shall be determined by the unimpeded will of an enlightened citizenship. Political censorship and free democracy are simply incompatible; the world cannot have both at the same time. To the extent that it permits censorship, society abdicates democracy. As for a league of nations, it can only be a farce so long as any considerable part of the world is hidden behind the black veil of censorship.

Censorship First Aid to Bolshevism.

Military censorship is necessary, although usually pushed to absurd lengths. Political censorship, which undertakes to determine how much of the truth shall be told concerning public affairs, is both unnecessary and vicious. It poisons the very springs of public action and enervates the free citizens of the world for "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

In the long run censorship defeats itself and fosters the growth of public disbelief in official integrity, to the great encouragement of bolshevism. Nobody would expect any set of persons as dense as the obscurantists responsible for censorship to perceive this serious implication of the efforts of the old order of autocracy and secret diplomacy. They are political ostriches, with heads deep in the sand. Nevertheless, every enlightened person knows that there is an uneasy suspicion abroad among the general public, even in America, that the whole truth has not been permitted to come out about many things, including Russia. Bolsheviki themselves are fostering that idea to the full extent of their powers of propaganda. They point to censorship as final evidence of the reactionary character of governments. In this particular instance, despite whatever suppression of facts there may have been, the full truth of the case would only serve to stiffen the conviction of real democracy as opposed to that ghostly perversion of self-government which has affected Russia like the rabies. Censorship is really a first aid to bolshevism.

Commission is Disillusioned.

Allied to censorship as an evil polluting the wells of public information is propaganda, such as is maintained by nations and peoples. America has been since the war began the principal object of the propagandist. Every party to the conflict wanted something or other of America. Some of the propaganda was on a wholesale scale, achieving marvels of nation-wide publicity. All Americans now know this, and a rather wholesome reaction of skepticism has taken possession of the country. We escaped disaster at the hands of enemy propaganda, and now we need to pray to be delivered from our friends.

One of the amusing and rather pathetic incidents that have appeared lately on the near eastern horizon has been the visit of a score of Sunday

school workers from the United States. They came out to see for themselves the awful conditions of the peoples for whose relief America has given many millions of dollars. They expected to find the starving lying by the wayside, with corpses unburied; and hundreds of thousands of orphaned, homeless children lifting up emaciated hands for succor. Up to date they have seen nothing of the sort, or anything resembling it. Certain forms of well-established relief mostly run by the British government, they have met; and what the disillusioned officials have told them about the character and conduct and deserts of most of these charges has been a douche of cold water to the propaganda-heated expectancy of the Sunday school men. Now they are wondering what they are to say when they get back home if they are to retain their reputation for truth and veracity.

Washington a Back Number.

These unsophisticated Sunday school folk, like everybody else through this part of the world, are being made wise in the ways of international politicians and propagandists. They have learned how out of date is the code of the father and his country, who "could not tell a lie." It will be hard for some of these good men to square their Sunday school writings with things as they are, unless they grapple the code of the famous statesmen whose names are in every day's paper.

Out here the antipathies between nations—allied nations—appear in all their red rawness. Anybody can see the old game of intrigue being played 24 hours a day. Nation is busy trying to outmaneuver nation in the race for self-aggrandizement and individual advantage, and all are making ducks and drakes of the fine ideals of the league of nations. Imperialism of the most shameless sort is dominant as the greater and lesser nations seek to exploit the weaker peoples.

In the face of this—and imagine the shock to the sensibilities of pious gentlemen who are accustomed to the cloistered life of Sunday school editors and secretaries—we read in the dispatches ardent official professions of mutual admiration, good will and eternal friendship between these contending rivals. There is nothing in the news to reveal the tooth-and-nail struggle that is actually going on wherever the interests of these "allies" impinge.

Why specify further? News from Egypt, news from India, news from Smyrna, news from Constantinople, news from Athens and Salonica too often bears the pencil marks of the censor and of the propagandist. Facts are subordinate to expediency. National projects take precedence of uncolored information. The right of the average man back home to know the truth, that he may form fair judgments and so determine political action, is one of the considerations that seem to have dropped out of sight in this sadly muzzled-up world.

The best service the newspapers of America could render the country at the present time would be to send out to Europe and Asia and Africa 50 or 100 representative news gatherers, men who have cut their eye teeth, who sign their writings and are known to the public, with a commission to tell the uttermost facts, however indiscreet, about the American implications of the world's present social and political tendencies.

America is setting sail upon new and dangerous and difficult seas; she is at least entitled to a full set of true charts; otherwise, all the facts of the case.

BRAZIL GIVES U. S. ADVICE

Vital Weakness in Foreign Trade Development Pointed Out.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, June 14.—(Correspondence of the Associated

Don't You Know a Good Thing When You See It?

Most men do, and if you receive just what value you get in one of our suits made by

Hart Schaffner & Marx

you'll come here for it. We're showing new arrivals every day. Models entirely different in every respect from the ordinary run of clothes.

Come in and we'll show you these new double and single-breasted waist-seam and belt-line suits.

Big values at \$40, \$45 and \$50—some more—some less.

You'll find our up-to-the-minute furnishing goods department with all that's new in wearing apparel.

Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co.

The Men's Store for Quality and Service Gasco Building Fifth and Alder



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FASCINATING SMALL GRAND PIANOS

Beautiful in their architecture, in their appearance, and especially so in tone, are the small Grand Pianos which we are now showing.

To meet the present-day demand for a Grand Piano which must be of suitable size for the small apartment, which must cost no more than a good upright and yet satisfy the critical musician, presents a real problem. Yet in

THE MILTON TINY GRAND

Is a most happy solution. It graces the small apartment, taking little more room than the upright; it adds that air of distinction which all desire, beautifies the home, satisfies in its musical qualities, and, better yet, it costs no more than a good upright, and may be had on easy terms.

We invite you to see and hear it.



The Wily B. Allen Co.
MASON AND HAMLIN PIANOS
MORRISON ST. AT BROADWAY
Other Stores, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles.

sale went in keen competition except two 40s, for which there was no demand. Some of the land sold as high as \$75 an acre, far beyond the appraised value.

Council Gives Ultimatum.

PARIS, July 26.—(By the Associated Press.)—The supreme council have decided to grant the Poles and Czechs 10 days more in which to reach an agreement on their differences concerning the Teschen region.

If at the end of this time no agreement has been arrived at the council will settle the difficulty.

Mexico Sends Minister to Denmark.

MEXICO CITY, July 26.—Jose M. de

la Garza, a former president of the municipality of Mexico City, has been named by President Carranza, minister to Denmark, his duties also extending to Norway and Sweden. Senior Garza named by President Carranza, minister will reside in Copenhagen.

the foreign trade development of the United States. As a remedy the recommendation is made that North American vessel owners either establish their own agencies or authorize the United States consul-general to recommend agents not only in Brazil, but in all South American countries.

IDAHO PUBLIC LAND SOLD

\$600,000 Realized on Property Bought Above Appraised Value.

BOISE, Idaho, July 26.—More than \$600,000 was received by the state of Idaho at the public land sale at Rexburg, the largest amount ever received at a sale of this kind in the history of Idaho.

All of the 17,000 acres offered for

in HIGH GEAR—at TOP SPEED—thru BEAR VALLEY

THIS WEEK

DOROTHY GISH

IN "NUGGET RELL" NOW

POSITIVELY A SUPER PROGRAMME
People's Amusement Co., J. C. Stille, Mgr.

"Off with them clothes!" 'Tis the voice of Nugget Nell, with "nothing to wear," a tenderfoot to win, and the meanest trigger finger in Rattlesnake Gulch.

See Nellie capture that wardrobe. See her rout a band of bloody bandits, save her Romeo from his just deserts, and prove herself the greatest she-hero that ever graced the plains!

A roaring burlesque travesty on the Wild and Movie West, with the screen's funniest comedienne. Don't miss them!

PEOPLES

NEWS PICTORIAL SCENIC

YES, IT'S 100%

Stille