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The Neutrality Revision Bill
Heretofore The Statesman has expressed its opinion
that the neutrality law ought to be amended to permit "cash and carry" sales of war munitions to belligerents. It may be
appropriate, now that it becomes neessary to study and appropriate, now that it becomes necessary to study and
analyze the specific bill that is before the senate, to reiterate that in reaching that opinion, we intended cash to mean cash and carry to mean "come and get it. mitted to the senate foreign relations committee, and as summary of changed to "title and carry," which is all to the good. Before they would be the property of the belligerent There further provision that losses to American insurance comthe basis for claims against the US governmen the "cash and carry" idea, authorizing the president io designate "combat areas." This done, it becomes unlawful for
any United States citizen or vessel-presumed also to includ passenger planes-to enter such areas except under such
regulations as may be prescribed. One universal exemption Would be vessels under control of the American Red Crn
Still another section prohibits Americans traveling on prescribed.
There can be no question that these provisions are well
calculated to keep the United States out of war leaving out
of consideration for the moment the central issue, whether
or not to permit sales of munitions to belligerents. But now
we come to some sections relating to finances. It is provided
that no person within the United States may purchase the
securities of a belligerent state or any of its subdivisions,
nor to loan money or extend credit to such a government
execept that the president has discretion to permit the exten-
sion of "ordinary commercial credits" for periods up to 00
days, without renewal privileges. Nations which failed to
meet these 90 -day obligations would be denied further credits.
This might appear to be merely an easing of the strict "cash" requirement for convenience, and amply safeguarde respects at least. Within the discretion of the president-
whose discretion we do not value highly-it would be possible to extend unlimited credit to belligerents. Ninety days con
stitute a quarter of a year, ample time for England, say, to
purchase on credit and ship vast quantities of munitions an pupplies. Now the bill repeals specifically only the two previons
so-called neutrality acts, but on the general theory that each new law repeals all acts or parts of acts in conflict,
may possibly be construed as repealing the Johnson act de
signed to withhold credit from nations which have dea on past debts, at least with respect to belligerents
But the real joker of the bill is something th the bill. The credit limitations apply only to belligerent gov ernments. There is nothing in the bill to pr
in belligerent countries from obtaining an

- and passing that credit ang -and passing that credit along to their governments. It $\mathbf{i}$ act bars such a process-but nevertheless the loophole is
there. It is up to congress to plug it. This proposed progran
is not "cash" though it " - Politics and Poetry These are the days when political writing-or inter
national writing, or writing about international relations-
is in great vogue. It is the most natural thing in the worl is in great vogue. It is the most natural thing in the worl
to sit down with the newspaper, morning, noon, or night, ar. taaling what are presented as absolute facts, others of the
"interpretive" type, which purport to set forth the "deepe Such political writing or writing about politics, mostl
international-is in the same vein it is internationa-1s in the same vein, it is universaly seriou
style and a near-wilderness of vering by a ponderousness c
sta, to give the reade some feeling of the "gravity" of the "
the poor writer, who perf the poor writer, who perforce must please a wide, and fre
quently rather dull, audience, affect more sprightly form quently rather dull, audience, affect more sprightly form
of expression on the plea that life is without doubt darkly
dismal, but that if an occasional pinprick of made in its funeral covering, nobody, really, is the los can On this score, on the ground that the human mind i
capable of appreciating only so much of this deadly serion prose about a deadly serious international situation, we turn with really sincere appreciation to those superior persons
who are able to write about what everybody is thinking without a trace of the Weltschmertz, or the dark grimness
which is so very characteristic of the less inspired but most articulate writers on international affairs.
the most satisfactory humor available in contemporar
America, has for some time made a practice of looking a
oreign developmnets through slightly satiric spectacles
its "Letters from Paris," and "Letters from London." This
sort of thing is well worth reading, as a happy antidote to
too many flash dispatches discussing the relative meit he Maginot and Siegfried liscussing the relative merits sssume a serious vein-is the abandonment of tare we mus
ng with "t the infinitely more expressive medium of pinging, rather, in This has been most forcibly apparent in reading Arch
MacLeish's Colloquy for the States and two poems by Edward A. Richards, The Killers and Remembering Woodrov
Witson, all of which appear in this month's Atlantic Monthly. MacLeish, who is Librearian of Congress, deals in his poem with the German racial doctrines, and their reference to America-though it is sinful to describe in such hackneyed among reeds at night, a feeling of latent American price but yet as expressive as the plains of Kansa, and the corn-
fields of Ohio. It has peace, contentment, above all beaun s Rembrandt from the Jimmy Murphy of war or Hitler Again Richards' poetry, speaking of Wilson:
HHe tought that the blood of efght mintion meen
Had wiped out the blood of the millions before."

Now that injurg, vengeance, and fear are written as news
We should remember himm, beaten and jeered fa his dream. Here again is reference to today's politics; but expressed
not in the stock phrases of the newspaper journeyman, nor in the jargon of the classroom in social sciénce; rather in navases which, though probably not poetry of the purest, are
nevertheless far more impressive, and surely vastly more
fresh, than newspaper headlines and profound "interpreta-

Bits for Breakfast


"Knight Errant"

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## Radio Programs

## News Behind Today's News



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