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## THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO. Hember of The Aspocinteo Preen 5 F

Polls and the War Thls era, in addition to being known in the future as the
heyday of dive-bombers, the cigarette fighter that works and heyday of dive-bombers, the cigarette lighter that works and
the double-ladle ice reeam cone, will proably also be known
as the ege of Public Opinion polls, since their original popularization by Literary Digest maga
\#ine of tender memory, that one's thinking involuntarily
turns in the conventional channels of the ubiguitons proher and one's opinion on public mattiers is never wholly one way
or the other, but generally 52 per cent for, 24 per cent
against, 13 per cent undecided, and 11 per cent speculation That is, indeed, the trouble with public opinion polls in
general: they can tell, in a quantitative way, how many peo ple are thinking about something in one way, how many oth
ers are thinking about the same thing in other ways, and how
many are not thinking about it at all, but they can never say and irrevocably any one person is doing that thinking. Tha
is why public opinion polls, which appear to be pleasingly
definite and certain on tion of last year's shoe polish bottle on another. A mere quan-
titative approximation of what is going is not enough; it has
to be qualitiative too. C. Al of this is merely prefatory to another suggestion:
pubilic opinion in the United States on the subject of the Eu-
ropean war is not divided so much by mere percentages for sity of the opinions which people hold, and also by very deep
geographical lines. The situation, as it appears now, seems
to be that the urban centers of the east, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, perhaps as far west as
Cleveland and doubtfully Chicano, are practically in the trenches south of the soil
of the nation is trail
ly as the case may be
 culated from those centers. The June edition of the Boston ther, even now, than opinion in the western regions towar
lnvolvement in the struggle. The New York Times day be
fore yesterday openly proposed conscription; Herald-Trib from dur non-belligerency. Dorothy Thompson has openly
advocated a declaration of war; General Johnson denounces
with what or war hysteria. Almost all war opinion which originates in are indefinable, mercurial, but undeniably present to a greatGuessing on the future of America's relation to the bel
ligerents is about as fruitful as tossig a sardine to a hungry
whale, but it is clear that whatever happens public opinion will not remain static and dormant, but will take a new shape eastern zeal or western lag which win determine the issue
not certain, but one is willing to wager that it will be the
group which thinks hardest rather than in group which thinks hardest rather than in greatest number
at a particular time which will decide. That 's why polls don'
help a lot in the present situation, and why nobody can accur
stely forecast what will really happen.

The Wendell will dive "free power for nothing" proppagangh, it muste of inten as
dietinict shoek that the head of a large private power utilit
in being jovity of these same Oregonians have resisted. the primary inplications of the pub
the republican party's nominee for president, this dialogue
"He's the president of a big power company.
"Humph
2go or even two years ago if there a had been a presidenti carapaign, his connection with the power indust
feetively have barred him even from dark horse national defense -and of course it's a pity that its even pression has not been generally reaiized all this time.
Furthermore, people are the beginning to realize-per-
haps only subconciously to date for the most part-hat in a time of real peril they instinctively place reliance not upon
dreamers and theorists but upon hard-headed men who are As for Wendell Willkie, aside from his private utility ac tivities which have been greatly cartailed by the expansion of
TVA, he appears to be decidedy "available" for the presi-
dency. It seems he started out to besomething of a radical in dency. It seems he started out to besomethis on a sath and may be classed as a liberal a "practical
hiseral" who resents the existence of powerful monopolies
liber yet recognizes an equal danger in excess goverrmentan pow-
er; who believes in a program of puiblic works to offset depression but insists that this programin be such that the pub-
lic gets value received; who realizes that governmental costs nust be met but insists that "venture" capital be not penaling should be painetanined and sharred hy al althe the people, yet Now, all that describes the point of view we hope will eentertained odd many men who share essentially that point
view-Dew, Taft, McNary and in faet neariy everyone mentioned prominently or obscurely for the republican nom-
hation. All of these men differ in capacity and in leadership
abitity. Willikie seems, at the moment, to be climbing the lad der of public enthusiasm from which Tom Dewey appears to
be slipping. Reassured as to his philosophy and viewpoin
 words, the remaining questions as to his sutnposst. In othe
fill practic
filly answer themselves in the next few weeks.

Arithmetic With a Silver Lining
ploc which has kept "the bee" on the employed by the siited States
these many years is that of Charles W. Beale of Wallace Idaho; an attomey described as a e nationally known anther,
ity on silver legislation." Attacking the Townsend bill which propoges to repeal the authority for purchase of foreign sill
ver, Beale mrote to northwest congressmen insisting that this
promam had 000,000 to the treasury. inder the silver acquisition act up to
Beale relates that unil 1 the treasury had bought $2,309,400,000$ ounces of sil


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