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NEWS AND COMMENT

In the great rush of the New Year do not forget to pay up your subscription.

Now that the holidays are over everybody will settle down to business and strive to make 1916 more prosperous than the year past.

We are ready to fight for the preservation of our country, but not to become a target that munition plants may be able to manufacture more implements of war.

In case of government ownership of public utilities it is presumed that the same tactics will be observed in regard to publicity as used by various government and state institutions of sending bulletins to newspapers with permission to publish without cost (to the institution), as a news item.

It is just possible that the administration will be able to stir up a little scrap with Austria. This will afford an excuse for an additional war tax and the universal military service now being planned. It is very probable that this administration will force the people to fight, but it will not be exactly in the way that is intended.

When the majority of the people are opposed to war why should a few men who are perfectly safe from any dangers of the war, be allowed to engage the country in a foolish conflict? It would not lower the United States in the eyes of the world (save the Allies) to notify all Americans that to embark on a ship of any nation engaged in war would be at their own risk; that life was held too sacred by the government of the United States to allow a few foolish Americans to jeopardize peace, life and property by taking any foolhardy chances.

Roosevelt Won't Let His Name Be Used

Announcement Made That He Will Protest Placing It on Michigan Progressive Ballot

Oyster Bay, N. Y. Dec. 28.—Colonel Roosevelt, it was announced today, will protest against the placing his name on the Michigan Progressive presidential ballot. A spokesman for the former president said: "The colonel will not willingly allow his name to go on any presidential ballot, Progressive or Republican. "His position has been and is that he will not enter the presidential primaries of either party. Should he be nominated he would be inclined to accept. But he wishes it understood that he is not scrambling for the nomination any more than is Justice Hughes."

Germans Comment On Note To Vienna

(Continued from 1st page.)

The Boersen Zeitung finds the second note decidedly milder in tone than the abstract cabled here led it to believe. It points out, however, that the note maintains its former standpoint and adds that even if the United States is of the opinion that new evidence cannot alter the facts, the new note still leaves the way open for a further exchange of notes.

Viewpoint Called Theoretical. "One sees by it," continues the paper, "that the American Government is very interested in maintaining the theoretical—all too theoretical—standpoint. Washington does not seem to think of a breach in American-Austro-Hungarian relations."

It declares that President Wilson's ambition is to uphold his humanitarian standpoint at all events and the fact that he emphasizes this standpoint especially against the central powers comes from the attitude assumed by all America toward the central powers, and adds: "We and our allies must reconcile ourselves to this fact—we have nothing to hope for from America and least of all may we expect a just application of the neutrality principle from the American side."

The Morgen Post says: "The note, with its almost hearty concluding phrases, permits the hope that Austria-Hungary and the United States may reach an understanding over this situation in all friendliness."

PROHIBITION (?)

Today, prohibition is in force, or rather the pseudo prohibition laws have become operative. A majority of the voters in Oregon declared for prohibition, but did they receive what they asked for? "Ye asked for bread and they gave you a stone." Even so have the advocates of prohibition been tricked. The law prohibits the manufacture or sale of liquor in the state, yet an individual is allowed a certain amount monthly and dealers outside may supply this amount. Why this discrimination? "Made in Oregon," is the slogan, you know.

A prohibition law that permits each individual enough booze each month to tank up on every Saturday night is a joke. Then how are you going to gauge the amount the thirsty individual imbibes? There is no way of attaching a metre, and the booze-fighter who told the truth about how much he drank and where he got it has long since joined that angel band and is singing, "How Dry I Am."

There is nothing that succeeds like success, and you might add, there is nothing that prohibits like prohibition. There is no argument in favor of drinking any more than there is for using tobacco. While tobacco does not reduce a man to the beastly condition as does whiskey, yet is an expensive and filthy habit. Men, goats and worms are the only animals and reptiles that will eat tobacco. On the liquor subject, as it stands today, which is the worst, high license or a prohibition law that does not prohibit?

The indications are that 1916 will be a very prosperous year for Falls City. There is a probability of a new general merchandise store being opened soon and other acquisitions in the way of business. With the mill in operation this should be a banner year. The advent of more business houses means more business for Falls City; fewer people will go away, or send away for their supplies. Let's encourage people to locate in or near Falls City, either to engage in business in town, till the soil or "pail" the mild-eyed "bossie."

The Unarmed Pirate

How She Plundered Was a Mystery.

By F. A. MITCHEL

Lieutenant Wickersham, in command of the United States gunboat Zac Taylor, cruising in the Malay archipelago, received a wireless order from the admiral to look out for a pirate vessel that had been doing a lot of damage to shipping in the South China sea. No well defined location for the pirate was given, since it was not known. Probably the order was sent to every United States vessel cruising in that region.

The second day after receipt of the order the watch on the Taylor reported to the officer of the deck that a ship was to be seen on the starboard quarter. She was changing her course very frequently. She did not look at all like a pirate, but on account of her mysterious actions the watch thought it his duty to report her.

The commander of the Taylor ordered the ship's course changed toward the vessel in question. No sooner had this been done than the other exhibited a clean pair of heels, evidently in flight. When the gunboat came close enough to the fugitive to discern what she was like Wickersham was surprised to see a very ordinary looking vessel, as unlike a pirate as possible. There were no ports for guns or any other evidence of a capacity for fighting. About dusk the stranger ran close into shore. She was still too far for those on the gunboat to see what was doing on board of her, but since the anchor chains could be heard rattling in the hawse pipes Wickersham did not give himself any uneasiness as to her getting away from him.

By the time the Taylor had come near the vessel night had fallen, and since the latter craft showed no light the gunboat felt obliged to stand off. However, Wickersham, suspecting that she might escape him under cover of the darkness, sent a boat in command of Ensign Throckmorton to reconnoiter. The party was gone an hour. When it returned Throckmorton made a very singular report.

He had found the vessel deserted. On her were all sorts of plunder, showing that she was undoubtedly a pirate. There was no cargo unless about a thousand barrels of oil might be considered such, but it seemed rather that this might have been for fuel. And yet the furnace was constructed for coal, of which there was a scant supply.

Wickersham was puzzled. Never had he heard of a pirate unarmed, un-manned, before. Nevertheless there was abundant evidence that the vessel was the one he had been ordered to look out for. The fact that she had fled when he gave chase was alone sufficient to condemn her. As for her crew, they had doubtless gone ashore under cover of darkness.

It did not seem that there was any need to take further action till morning. The anchor of the pirate being on the bottom, there being no crew aboard to raise it and the shore to which they must have gone being eight or ten miles distant, the lieutenant decided to let the matter rest for the night and the next day go aboard the craft himself and make a personal examination. So he turned in, leaving the executive officer in charge.

When the first faint light appeared in the east the commander was awakened to be informed that the pirate had disappeared. Jumping out of his bunk, he put on a dressing gown and slippers and hurried on deck. The vessel certainly was not where she had been the night before, but the day had broken, and the man in the crow's nest reported her or a vessel very like her on the horizon. Wickersham, after bringing a glass to bear on her, pronounced her the pirate and gave orders to get up the anchor and make chase immediately.

The pirate was standing eastward along the tenth parallel of latitude, evidently making for the open sea. The gunboat managed to keep her in sight and make a small gain. During the day the lieutenant made inquiries among the crew to learn if any one had heard any sound during the night. One man said that he fancied he had heard an anchor chain being carefully slipped through a hawse pipe. He had called the attention of the officer of the deck to it, but since the officer had heard nothing himself he paid no attention to the man's report. Nevertheless Wickersham made up his mind that the pirate had slipped her anchor and sailed away without it.

The mystery worked on the men, some of whom were ignorant and superstitious, and knots were constantly gathering to discuss the strange craft, the opinion being occasionally expressed that the ship was a phantom. But this did not reach the ears of the commander, who would have taken means to quash it.

During the day a wireless message was flashed by the admiral asking if the Taylor had seen anything of the pirate. Wickersham asked for information as to the vessel that he was ordered to capture. The answer was that the admiral had no description of her. It had been reported that several vessels due at Chinese ports had not come in. The weather had been fine; therefore there was no suspicion that they had been wrecked by storm. It

had been reported that one Dixon, an Englishman, who was known to be a pirate, had bought a vessel at Canton, and it was supposed that he had fitted her up for piratical purposes. It looked as if he had captured the missing vessels and sunk them with all on board. This information did not relieve Wickersham's perplexity. If the vessel he was chasing was the one Dixon had purchased, how had he been able to capture ships, plunder them and sink them without any armament? Nevertheless that this had been done was evident from the valuables found on the deserted unarmed ship which was now fleeing before the Taylor.

Toward the close of the second day of the chase the island of Formosa was sighted, and Wickersham began to fear that his prey would escape him by putting into some indentation or inlet along the Formosan coast. The commander of the fugitive vessel ran to within a few miles of shore, but did not put in, evidently waiting for dark in order that his pursuer might not be able to see him when he left the open water. However, reaching a convenient point for hiding, he ran into it while there was still sufficient light for Wickersham to see him.

The fact of his doing so set the lieutenant thinking. Might she not have paused in her flight, when she could have kept on, for a purpose? The fact that so many vessels had disappeared suggested that the pirate had some newfangled device for wrecking them. Might she not come out during the night and practice it on the Taylor? As soon as it was dark, taking a position off where the pirate had put in, Wickersham dropped his anchor and ordered every light on the ship put out. He would not even permit a lamp to be left burning, though covered. He resolved to remain awake during the night, ready for any emergency.

However, about midnight, becoming drowsy, he went to sleep in a hammock, having given orders to be called should anything unusual occur. About 2 o'clock he was awakened and told that voices had been heard near the gunboat. Springing up, he went on deck and listened. His hearing was very acute, and he was sure that he heard a sound of oars which had been imperfectly muffled. He ordered a gun to be loaded on each of the four quarters, ready to be fired. Some of his subordinates wondered what he expected to shoot at, while the more superstitious of the crew began to fear that there was something supernatural about.

But the lieutenant ordered every man to keep perfectly silent and remained on watch himself. When the first ray of light came he descried a boat pulling directly toward the Taylor. It was a mile away, and a cable's length behind it the water seemed disturbed, as though some obstacle was moving through it. Then suddenly the lieutenant rushed to the gun that pointed toward the coming boat and stood with the lanyard in his hand, peering into the breaking darkness. Others on the deck were able to descry the moving boat, but not the object disturbing the water behind it.

Nevertheless in a few minutes all could see something that caused a cold chill to run down their spines. It was the periscope of a submarine. From it every eye was turned to their commander, who was carefully sighting the piece near which he stood. Calling to his next in command to come to him, without taking his eye off the periscope, he resigned the lanyard to him, with orders to pull it when he gave the order. When the periscope came within a hundred yards of the Taylor it slowed down and began to settle in the water.

"Fire!" There was an explosion, and the periscope careened, showing evidence of being wrecked, then disappeared. In a few minutes the surface of the water was covered by oil. Wickersham gave a sigh of relief, which was re-echoed by every man on the Taylor.

The men in the boat turned and were pulling away lustily when a well aimed shot from another gun sent her to the bottom, leaving her crew, some dead, some wounded and some unhurt, floating on the water.

"Man a boat!" cried Wickersham. A boat was soon pulling to the men struggling in the water. They were picked up and brought on to the Taylor. One of them was Dixon. This was his story:

He had been using the vessel he had bought to carry plunder which was secured by means of a submarine. He kept with him. He would put a torpedo into a vessel, then while she was sinking board her and secure what valuables he could find. His boarding party was well armed, but seldom needed to use their weapons. After gathering the plunder he would leave the vessel and her crew to go down together, taking pains that no person lived to tell the tale. Believing that the Taylor would eventually get him, Dixon had resolved to torpedo her. Unfortunately for him, the night was dark, and he was unable to find her till daylight revealed him to his intended prey.

Wickersham reported the facts to the admiral, who directed him to hang the few pirates he had captured. The order was obeyed while the Taylor was making for the plunder ship, which was overhauled. The men, supposing that the Taylor would surely be torpedoed, took little care and did not see the gunboat until she was well on them. Then they tried to escape in boats, but were all captured and served the same punishment as the others.

The admiral's order to hang the pirates without trial enabled him to hush the matter up, which course he deemed advisable, and, although reported to Washington, the matter never got into the newspapers.

CROWNED IN DEATH.

A Groomsman Ceremony After Pedro I. Gained His Throne.

Do you know what was the most solemn and impressive coronation ever accorded the consort of a king? Modern coronations are impressive, it is true, and it is all very well to be a queen and to ride in state from palace to the cathedral, although Ena of Battemberg, now Queen Victoria of Spain, found the ride a little too exciting for real comfort. But in spite of that attempted assassination there was nothing in her assumption of the crown that was at all comparable with the coronation of another princess in the southwestern peninsula of Europe in the year 1350. She was Inez de Castro, one of the bluest blooded maidens of the haughty and ancient royal strain of Portugal.

In 1347, when Don Pedro had been betrothed by his father and the court to a Spanish princess, he eloped and was secretly married to his fair cousin, Inez. When the king of Portugal learned of the marriage he had his unwelcome daughter-in-law murdered by a band of hired assassins. The result was a devastating war, and when the prince ultimately came to the throne as Pedro I. he had the body of his beloved exhumed, attired in regal robes and placed in the throne chair. One fleshless hand clasped the scepter, and to this dead queen the whole court was required to do homage. That night she was buried with the greatest pomp and solemnity.

DIET FOR STOUT FOLKS.

Foods That Nourish, but That Do Not Produce Fat.

Many foods are very nourishing, but do not produce fat. The two kinds which create fatty tissues are fats of all kinds, like butter, lard, drippings (foods cooked in them), and the large group of foods classed as starches. If eaten in excess starch will be laid up in the body as superfluous or stored fat.

Following is a list of nourishing foods which will not produce excess fat:

Light meats, like chicken, white fish, lean beef; all vegetables except potatoes, parsnips and other starchy kinds; fruits of all kinds except bananas; grains or cereals except oatmeal and rice; beans and cheese; milk (in small quantity); eggs.

Beer and all malt drinks increase fatty tendency. The diet of milk and eggs will fatten unless exercise is taken or the body is in a very run down condition. Cocoa is a fattening drink also.

Exercise, plenty of water between meals and a diet of lean meats and many vegetables and fruits prevent fat. Avoid pastries, cake, fried foods, gravies and sauces. Do not eat between meals. Live in the open air and be active. If possible, perspire freely some time each day.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Long Spoon.

"Tomkyns" recently heard the expression, "If you sup with the devil you will need a long spoon." "Though I never heard it before," he says, "it is evidently fairly well known, and what I should like to know is, What does it mean and where does it come from?"

It means that if you are going to sit down to a meal with his Satanic majesty you will need a long spoon to avoid the necessity of getting too near the old gentleman, and in its general sense, of course, it implies that if you have dealings with a dangerous or notorious person it behooves you to use great caution. It comes from one of the "Ingoldsby Legends," and the quotation reads: "Who suppes with the Deville shoide have a long spoone."

—London Opinion.

What He Would Give.

"I understand you have a great many friends in this city." "Yes," replied the man, as modestly as he could. "Could you give me the names of some of them to whom I might go with my proposition?" "I could, but I won't," replied the man. "Why not? It is generally done." "Perhaps it is," replied the man slowly, "but, you see, I wish to keep all my friends. Would you like the names of a few of my enemies?"—Detroit Free Press.

Fastidious Pigs.

Pigs, instead of being ready to eat anything, are among the most fastidious of animals. Out of 575 plants the goat eats 449 and refuses 126; sheep, out of 523 plants, eat 387 and refuse 141; cows, out of 494 plants, eat 276 and refuse 218; horses, out of 474 plants, eat 262 and refuse 212, while pigs, out of 243 plants, eat only 72 and refuse 171.—London Express.

Too Well Cleaned.

Papa—I cannot conceive what is the matter with my watch. I think it must want cleaning. Pet Child—Oh, no, papa, dear! I don't think it needs cleaning, because baby and I had it washing in the basin for ever so long this morning.—London Tit-Bits.

He Couldn't Dodge.

He—As it is to be a secret engagement, dearest, it would not be wise for me to give you a ring at present. She—Oh, but I would wear it on the wrong hand, you know!—Exchange.

Wet Welcomes. Flinging a jar of water over your friend is one striking form of salutation adopted by the south sea islanders.

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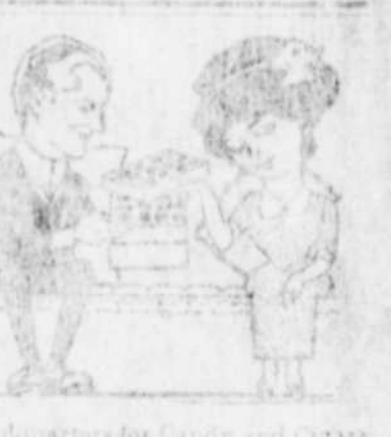
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