



The Western World

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HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

How long will the war last? That is the question, aside from the eternal struggle for the alleged almighty dollar, which occupies the minds of the world today. With the coming draft scheduled for the early spring months, the question is of moment to local people even more forcefully. It has been said, when hostilities first commenced, that the war could not possibly last longer than six months for in that length of time the economic pressure would force peace; then the tempo was advanced to a year, and as the year came to an end, to two years, three years, with the guess today at some time during the latter part of the coming summer.

The chief obstacle to peace appears to be the fact that it takes two to make peace as well as war, compromise or bargain. With the Allies of one mind that the Prussian military system must be crushed, and with that same Prussian system still able to put a bold and still highly efficient front to their combined attacks, confining world peace to the realms of oratory, and out of the possibilities of practical realization.

Germany and her allies, no matter how great our hopes to the contrary, we must admit is still fighting efficiently. She will not talk peace except on her own terms, or terms at least advantageous to her, as long as she remains efficient.

On the other hand, we and our Allies are growing more efficient every day, and as we grow more so, we will make even more emphatic the terms upon which we will conclude hostilities with the common foe. Lasting peace will come only when we have humbled the Prussian military system and not before—cessation of hostilities otherwise would be but a breathing truce.

The vitality of a nation under war conditions has been variously demonstrated. Rome fought a more or less continuous struggle against barbarian hordes on her various frontiers during the last centuries of the decline of that great empire; the struggle to drive the Turk out of Europe has lasted from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the present day; The Thirty Years' War of complex internal and external strife engaged over the territories of present day Germany lasted for 30 years, or until civilization had almost been destroyed; Napoleon and the armies of France were able to present a victorious and aggressive front to the combined efforts of the remainder of Europe for years until grandfather and grandson were fighting side by side, and that, too, when France had already been almost laid prostrate by internecine strife previous to his dictatorship. Years before it had taken France more than a hundred years to free her western provinces from English rule. The American Civil war lasted four years with the South almost wholly without means of making munitions of war, and efficiently blockaded on every coast. And comparatively recently the attempt of a would be Napoleon of Paraguay in South America or conquer an outlet to the sea from the Republics of Brazil and Argentina caused a bloody conflict which lasted for years until the population of Paraguay had been reduced from a million and a half to less than 300,000, every industry destroyed and every foot of the little country occupied by foreign troops.

How long will the war last? Who knows. The main thing is not how long will it last, but how quickly can we win it.

GET THIS RIGHT

What is intended by the Meatless and Wheatless day, called for by the regulators of the United States food administration, is clearly stated below:

Meatless day—No beef, pork or mutton, to be served in any form. This includes sausages, hash, hamburger, steak, sweet breads, tripe, liver, brains, kidney, pigs feet, meat soups, etc. Substitutes which may be used include game, poultry, fish, eggs and sea foods. Also cheese in combination with macaroni, spaghetti, rice, hominy, etc.

Wheatless day—No wheat products to be served in any form. This

includes bread containing any wheat flour, whether white or graham; wheat cereals; white and graham crackers; macaroni; spaghetti; cakes pies and other pastry containing wheat; sauces containing flour or bread crumbs. Substitutes which may be used include breads, pastry and pies made from combination of corn meal, barley flour, rye flour, oatmeal flour and rice flour. Popcorn has been found to be a satisfactory substitute for some kinds of crackers.

Do not use wheat on Wednesday on the theory that it will not keep over until the next day. It can be used later for toast and other purposes, and must in no instance be served on Wednesday. Recipes for bread, cake and pastry containing no wheat flour may be had on application to any of the food administration offices.

THE RIGHT MOVE

Local officials deserve to be commended for the early action taken in enforcing strict precautionary methods against the possible spread of scarlet fever to this community. As yet Bandon has not been invaded by the dreaded contagion and it is a positive certainty that no one wants to see it come. The officials are doing the right thing. It is to be expected that they will be criticized by some, for it is impossible to put restrictions into effect without discriminating or inconveniencing someone along the line. But it must be taken into consideration that the welfare of the whole community, especially the children, is far more important than that of a few individuals. All fair-minded people, who understand the danger of scarlet fever, even in its mildest forms, will agree that strict precaution is essential. Once it gets started here far more stringent measures will be required to check it, so it is better to suffer a few inconveniences now.

A DEFINITION OF GERMANISM

Innumerable articles and many books have been written to define "Germanism" and show to the world what it means. A definition has also been pronounced by the president: "This intolerable Thing of which the masters of Germany have shown us the ugly face, this menace of combined intrigue and force which we now see so clearly as the German power, a Thing without conscience or honor or capacity for covenanted peace."

"This Thing must be crushed, and if not truly brought to an end, at least shut out from the friendly intercourse of the nations; and it is only when this Thing and its power are indeed defeated that the peace can come when we can discuss peace with the German people." (Message to Congress, Dec. 4, 1917.)

ON WAR SAVINGS

"War Savings Stamps mark an epoch in our national life."

Many a successful business man has said that the saving of his first dollar was the most important single act of his life; that it marked the beginning of a habit and a course of conduct to which he attributed his success.

Something analogous to this is going to be the effect on the American nation of the War Savings campaign. Not only are millions of individual citizens going to begin to save, but this habit of economy and saving is going to be a collective movement, a movement not of individuals alone but of the Nation.

The habit of saving formed now has a deeper incentive than ordinary. We are saving now not alone for selfish reasons, we are saving now from patriotism, saving not alone for ourselves but for our country. The combination of patriotism and thrift is, indeed, going to make the War Savings campaign an epoch in our national life. It is not only going to be a thing of tremendous benefit to millions of citizens, it is going to be a thing of tremendous advantage to the nation as a whole, and affect our whole national life. It marks the beginning of a new era in American life, an era of economy, good sense, and patriotism.

To attribute all the stories that have been circulated derogatory to the Red Cross, to pro-German activity is paying the Prussian spy system an undeserved compliment.

Emotion Mistaken for Wisdom in a Large Proportion of Legislation

By U. S. Senator George Sutherland, Former President of the American Bar Association



If I were asked to name the characteristic which more than any other distinguishes our present-day political institutions, I am not sure that I should not answer, "The passion for making laws." There are 48 small or moderate-sized legislative bodies in the United States engaged a good deal of the time, and one very large national legislature working overtime at this amiable occupation, their habitual output being not far from fifteen thousand statutes each year. The prevailing obsession seems to be that statutes, like the crops, enrich the country in proportion to their volume. Unfortunately for this notion, however, the average legislator does not always know what he is sowing and the harvest which frequently results is made up of strange and unexpected plants whose appearance is as astonishing to the legislator as it is disconcerting to his constituents.

This situation, I am bound to say, is not wholly unrelated to a more or less prevalent superstition entertained by the electorate that previous training in legislative affairs is a superfluous adjunct of the legislative mind, which should enter upon its task with the sweet inexperience of a bride coming to the altar. As rotation in crops—if I may return to the agriculture figure—improves the soil, so rotation in office is supposed to improve the government. The comparison, however, is illusory since the legislator resembles the farmer who cultivates the crops rather than the crops themselves, and previous experience, even of the most thorough character, on the part of the farmer has never hitherto been supposed to destroy his availability for continued service.

I think it was the late Mr. Carlyle, who is reported to have made the rather cynical observation that the only acts of parliament which were entitled to commendation were those by which previous acts of parliament were repealed. I am not prepared to go quite that far, though I am prepared to say that in my judgment an extraordinarily large proportion of the statutes which have been passed from time to time in our various legislative bodies might be repealed without the slightest detriment to the general welfare.

The trouble with much of our legislation is that the legislator has mistaken emotion for wisdom, impulse for knowledge, and good intention for sound judgment. "He means well" is a sweet and wholesome thing in the field of ethics. It may be of small consequence, or of no consequence at all, in the domain of law. "He means well" may save the legislator from the afflictions of an accusing conscience, but it does not protect the community from the affliction of mischievous and meddling statutes.

War Marriages, Contracted in Haste, Often Bring Regrets

By MRS. EDNA B. FUNSTON, Widow of Gen. Frederick B. Funston

Moving is the hardest duty of an army man's wife. She has to be ready to shift her household from one place to another in perhaps a few days' time. This means that furniture must be sold, some stored away, some shipped to the new home, other kinds selected, trunks packed, the children outfitted, different kinds of clothing bought, and what not. When I was living in San Antonio, Tex., I had the double problem of keeping one home ready in California and another open on the border. And the income of an army man is not so big that this is a simple matter. But I wouldn't have changed a single day of my life for anything.

I do not think that as a general rule war marriages are good things, although circumstances often arise which alter the case. My husband was the kind of a man who was easy to know, so that I felt after my two weeks' engagement to him that I had known him always. On the other hand, I knew a woman who was engaged to a man for ten years before she married him. She knew him too well, was actually tired of him when they married, so of course they did not have a happy life. So you see it isn't the length of time you know your husband—it's in the individuals.

I think most young girls who marry during the war in haste often regret their hastiness. They do not think of the responsibilities of marriage. It is hard for a young girl to be left alone when her husband goes to war. It is harder still for her to go on with her life should she be widowed, because no matter how young she is there is a big difference between girlhood and widowhood. In the majority of instances the war bride does not realize what she is doing.

An extremely high percentage of such rumors are due entirely to ignorance and publicly expressed personal suspicions and opinions. One person expresses an opinion to a friend and the friend passes it on as a statement of fact, and soon we are confronted with a full-fledged rumor springing from a basis of no greater fact than a single person's opinion. The Red Cross is confronted with the same "doubts" in this regard that has fallen to the lot of all public institutions.

The public is always unanimous against the increase of railroad rates and the reduction of railroad wages. During the present week of good resolutions and finis of Xmas perfects, local business men are swearing mightily by the stogie.



DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR TEETH

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