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W. L. JACKSON
and
RALPH R. CRONISE

Editors
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Managers

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"QUI S'EXCUSE---S'AC- CUSE"

("I bought bonds while the war was on; now my duty is toward my family and my business.")

Is that so? The war was fought to protect your family and your business, and now you convict yourself of ingratitude by refusing to lend to pay for that protection.

The German peace delegates have been told to bring their fountain pens with them.

GERMANS READY FOR BUSINESS

Germany will sign the peace terms, and sign them probably with so little demur as will leave the world gaping. But why? Because Germany is anxious to get back into commercial life, and she has already made preparations on a bigger scale than is realized commonly. Being prepared, she chafes at the inaction and delay which prevent her making a little real money.

According to a news correspondent who has been visiting our boys on the Rhine, many provinces are making big displays of cutlery, farm implements and hardware. And it is asserted that in Coblenz knives have been put on sale in the stores which have been manufactured recently in Germany but bear the names of British firms; and, according to one Ohio boy, the name of a well-known Cleveland hardware firm decorates others.

The German ports are flooded with German salesmen ready to set sail at the first possible moment for foreign trade fields. They are said to be backed with plenty of goods to start a highly aggressive campaign. They also have been instructed to ignore slights and insults, but get business.

All of which goes to prove that America and the allied nations should prepare likewise. For while Germany will have a hard row to hoe industrially in spite of all her efforts to be ready, industry is a characteristic of her people, and she has never been over-scrupulous about her selling methods.

SCRAPS OF PAPER MONEY

Lenine, the Russian bolshevik dictator, has been thought of as a very crafty individual. But perhaps he has been misunderstood. Judged by his financial theories, he seems a simple, trusting fanatic.

Lenine explained to a correspondent the other day why his printing presses are issuing paper money in such vast quantities. He is not, as one might suppose, trying to create something out of nothing. He regards money as the root of all evil, and wants to abolish it altogether. He is giving his people worthless money to make them sick of it, so they will not want money any more.

"The simplest way to exterminate the very spirit of capitalism," he says, "is, therefore, to flood the country with notes of high face value, without financial guarantees of any sort. Already even a hundred ruble note is almost valueless in Russia. Soon even the simplest peasant will realize it is only a scrap of paper, not worth more than the rags from which it is manufactured."

"Men will cease to covet and hoard it so soon as they discover it will not buy anything, and the great illusion of the value and power of money on which the capitalist state is based will have been destroyed. This is the real reason why our presses are printing ruble bills day and night without rest, but this simple process must, like all measures of bolshevism, be applied all over the world in order to render it effective."

That looks like a large task. But Lenine considers it quite feasible, because, "fortunately the frantic financial debauch in which all governments have indulged during the war has paved the way everywhere for its application."

If the ingenuous Lenine thinks the way is paved in America, he ought to look a little closer into the matter. He would find, then, that every bit of paper put out by the United States government or by any of our 48 state governments is still worth precisely what it was before the war—100 cents on the dollar. That is because every paper dollar is a pledge to pay the bearer on demand a dollar in hard coin, and because the pledge is kept.

An economic system is generally as sound as its medium of exchange. Our system is one pole of an economic world of which Lenine's is the other.

Speaking of French thrift, Premier Clemenceau says he is "not going to indulge in the luxury of a new coat just because a fool shot a few holes in my old coat."

CARRANZO SORE AGAIN

The Mexican government is much disgusted with France and the peace conference. In two statements issued simultaneously the other day it was officially announced that the Mexican minister sent to France had been ordered to leave Paris, and that although the peace conference might recognize the Monroe Doctrine, Mexico would never do so.

It is not altogether unnatural that Carranza should feel peevish about the treatment accorded his minister, Senor Alberto J. Pani. He arrived at Paris with his credentials last December, and ever since has been hanging around the anterooms of the French foreign office waiting to present those credentials. It is pretty hard on the pride of so arrogant a ruler as Don Venustiano Carranza. So he orders his minister off to Spain, there to await developments in a more congenial atmosphere.

Just why France has not received the Mexican envoy is not explained. There are doubtless good reasons. They may have to do with the heavy financial claims against Mexico for damages done and rights ignored with respect to French property in Mexico. They may be connected with the friendly Mexican attitude toward Germany during the war, or the hostile Mexican attitude toward the peace conference, of which this slap at the Monroe Doctrine is a typical indication.

At any rate, Carranza has another grievance, and therefore ought to be content. He dotes on grievances.

One doughboy who is mad because he didn't get a chance to do a little real fighting sadly laments that he went to France to fight for democracy, but all he got was flu and prohibition. Some people never have any luck!

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DESPISE THE "HIGHER LIFE"

South Sea Natives Satisfied and Joyous Among the Primitive Surroundings of Their Islands.

Doctor Osler suggested nothing new—if he ever said it at all—for down among the South Sea islands the old are buried alive when they pass the period of usefulness.

Martin Johnson showed motion pictures of natives dancing on the newly made graves of the victims of this South Pacific "efficiency" when he and Mrs. Johnson spoke before the National Geographic society at Washington.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson went "gunning" for the pictures among the numerous unexplored islands which dot the South Pacific, an area that covers a tenth of the globe's surface, and contains 20,000,000 inhabitants. Of these at least 2,000,000, Mr. Johnson estimated, still are savage enough "to believe the earth is flat, and they never heard of German 'kultur' or have been annoyed by book agents."

Native dances, which seemed amazingly like the steps of a Broadway chorus, were danced by maidens attired in nose sticks, huge earrings and necklaces, which seemed to comprise the complete attire dictated by the spring fashions of the Solomon Islands. The "open work ears," which had been distended by disks that look like ear drums, often hung down to the shoulders. In Malaita they are wearing strings of human teeth, and nothing else, this season.

Mrs. Johnson told of the distinctive variety of "pidgin" English spoken by the shore natives of various islands. There are as many as 400 different tongues spoken by the various islanders, Mr. Johnson stated. Mrs. Johnson usually made friends with the natives, among whom, she naively stated, there probably was little more danger than among the white lights of Broadway. But this popularity occasionally had its disadvantages.

The pictures showed the four coal-black wives of one native chief, who courteously offered to trade them all for the explorer's wife.

Cannibalism still exists in many of these islands, and Mr. Johnson showed one picture of natives bearing a huge bowl to the grove where they observed their ceremonial in connection with their human roasts. Amid a background of some of the most beautiful scenery to be found in the world, the speaker said, exist peoples of almost animal-like savagery and ferocity, to whom torture and murder seem the favorite pastimes.

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