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THE WORLD'S GREATEST EGOTIST.

Colonel Roosevelt who for some time has been crowded out of the limelight, or, to be exact, who has not crowded himself into it, could no longer remain in the shadow, and so took advantage of the president's reply to Germany to fan the embers under himself into a blaze and call attention to the fact that he is still hanging around. The trouble with the Colonel is that he can never for a moment forget that he was once president of the United States, or remember for half that time that he is so no longer. That explains why he has sent a message to the senate, or part of it, condemning President Wilson, and his fourteen peace terms, as well as the language used by the president in expressing himself and about everything else of and concerning the reply. He says in speaking of the fourteen points laid down by the president: "Naturally they are entirely satisfactory to Germany and equally naturally they are in this country satisfactory to every pro-German and pacifist and anti-American so-called internationalists."

He pays no attention to the fact that both England and France are standing solidly with the president, and praising his stand as well as his masterly reply. The popular comment on the reply in London is that it contains the strongest language ever addressed by the head of one great nation to another in modern times. The Westminster Gazette says: "And that is the president's last word. We can negotiate with a free people, but we must demand surrender from a military autocracy." Dispatches from Paris of the same date as the Colonel's attack say: "President Wilson's reply to Germany was received in competent quarters here today with entire approval." The feeling prevails in general among French officials that the latest note from the president of the United States is just what the allies have been wanting to force upon the enemy. The sentiment in both France and England is that the president's reply is a most masterly one, and thus it follows that if Roosevelt's assertions are correct as to it pleasing Germany and the pacifists in this country, then both the peoples of France and England must be classed as pacifists. Even the Colonel will have trouble convincing the most rabid of his admirers, and he still has a few who have not wearied of his perpetual fireworks, that this classification is correct.

If Portland's municipal fishing outfit can catch and deliver fish at that city so they can be sold at about half what the local dealers are charging, it is pretty good evidence that someone is profiteering. It is also a suggestion that Portland increase the capacity of her plant and so help her neighbors. The municipal plant is selling halibut at 11 cents for chunks, and 13 cents for sliced fish. This, while consumers throughout the state are paying around 25 cents. The Portland plant is also selling salmon at 15 cents and other fish at 10 cents. Taken clear through the prices at which the city sells fish to its citizens is about half that charged by dealers.

The American chemists are giving the Germans a sample of what they can do in the way of making gas for putting the enemy out. The latest dispatches tell of an American-made gas that is too strong for the German masks and that hundreds of dead Germans have been found on the battlefields wearing masks, that were not up to the work they were designed for. Although they violated the rules of war by using gas, the Prussians will be the loudest in their howls against the use of it, provided they get the worst of the bargain.

While influenza cases have increased in some localities, throughout the country as a whole the situation is considered as somewhat improved. Just now California seems to be about the worst sufferer, 50,000 cases being reported in the state to date. Throughout the Mississippi valley the situation is reported as much improved. With continued carefulness and a refusal to become panic stricken, it is probable the disease will wear itself out before long.

THEIR GREAT MISTAKE.

The German newspaper Voerwarts, discussing the present plight of Germany says "the greatest mistake the leaders made was the invasion of Belgium and submarine warfare." It points out that twenty months ago the submarines ruined the hope of peace by changing American neutrality to alliance with Germany's enemies and turned the world against her. While these were two of the major mistakes made by the Prussian war lords, the greatest one was in beginning the war at all, or laying the foundation for the attack on the world during the last half a century. Really the worst feature of the war, from the German viewpoint, is that the German people have been educated to absolutely wrong beliefs as to the rights of man, and it will take a generation or two to overcome this. Until it is overcome, the balance of the world will be chary about being especially friendly with Germany as a nation. The world will be suspicious of her for the next half century.

The big offensive started on the Italian front yesterday met with considerable success despite unfavorable weather. If it succeeds to the extent expected the Austrians will be forced back, along with her internal troubles, she will be forced to quit cold. This will leave Germany's back door wide open and make her surrender a necessity.

The bolsheviki have started a new system of marriage. All girls on arriving at the age of 18 are declared the property of the state and as such are forced to marry "for the benefit of the state." They are given a chance to select a husband once a month from a display of men, and if they fail the men are given a chance to select. Neither can refuse, and if a Russian girl gets her eye on a Russian unappropriated he is a goner.

The g. o. p. is asking the voters to support its candidates because they have supported the democratic administration even more strongly than the democrats themselves have. It's a peculiar state of affairs to have republicans trying to prove that they are the staunchest and most reliable of democrats in all things except party name.

It is evident from the news leaking out of Germany that one of the things moving the leaders to take action toward securing peace is the fear of bolshevism. The warlords thought it a great thing for Russia but they dread it as it raises its head in Germany. The fate of the czar and many of the higher officials of Russia when bolsheviki methods were used against them is not cheerful to contemplate by the discredited Hohenzollerns.

It is politics not patriotism that is stirring Roosevelt, Lodge and that sort of calamities into action. They want the spoils of office and are talking patriotism to secure them.

The twelfth federal reserve district came out of the Fourth Liberty loan campaign with a clean slate. Every town, county and district on the coast went over the top, and the quota was exceeded by \$25,000,000.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

WEARY WILLIE.

It is the royal Teuton, and wearily he speaks: "I started all this shootin'; hence tears upon my cheeks; oh, visions great and splendid my dreaming soul attended; I thought war would be ended, with triumph, in six weeks. I thought my mighty legions would have a walk-away, and conquer all the regions that in their pathway lay; I thought 'twould be an outing, a time of glee and shouting, and I could do some spouting to big crowds every day. I saw myself in glory, upon a milk-white steed, while monarchs, whipped and gory, knelt in the dust to plead; four years I have been fighting, four years of war affrighting, and I find, at this writing, my dreams all gone to seed. The truth comes to me slowly--I have no chance to win; the truth is most unholy--your Wilhelm is all in; and all around this planet, wherever I may scan it, men's hearts are hard as granite, from hating me like sin. I have to take a whipping, the truth I plainly see; my hands are red and dripping, and none will pity me; oh, none will sigh in sorrow, if I am licked tomorrow, but some will want to borrow a long rope and a tree. Was ever monarch hated as I am hated now? The crown is leaden weighted that rests upon my brow; the throne that once I treasured, the robes in which I pleased, now bring me grief unmeasured--I'd trade them for a cow. For I am lone and friendless, a king without a chum; my loveliness is endless, for never friend will come; for all the world will hate me, detest me and berate me, until morticians crate me, when I am dead and dumb."

DRAFT BOARD NEWS.

The board has recognized its error in posting Albert Moullet, of Gervais, as delinquent. Mr. Moullet has his questionnaire filled out and m. Ernest Floyd McDowell returned Sunday night from an outing and resumed his position at the Southern Pacific station. He was posted as a delinquent, but this was an error as he had left instructions to have his questionnaire forwarded, which was not done. The questionnaire is now filled out and Mr. McDowell is ready when called upon to serve.

THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

Ruth Is Again Obligated to Go Away, Brian Objects at First.

CHAPTER LXIII.

These occasional conversations with Mrs. Curtis about the 'woman question' gave Ruth much food for thought. She was the last sort of woman to parade her capabilities in any direction. She intended to do her work. From choice, the more quietly she was enabled to do it, the better she was pleased. But if to have it exploited helped the firm, she had no right to object.

When she had demurred at having her name put on the cards of the firm as its expert in her line, Mandel had argued with her. His arguments contained much truth, and she knew how to present them to Ruth in such a way that she immediately recognized their force. Then too, she very naturally was flattered to think he considered her work good enough to give it such prominence.

This was another fly in Brian's ointment—a great, big, buzzing creature that he seemed unable to brush away. Back it came insistently with its annoying accompaniment of noisy suggestion.

"Then once more she was told she would have to go away; suddenly as had happened before.

"You can go?" Mandel asked after explaining what was needed.

"Certainly," Ruth recognized the call on her as a business woman. She had elected to be a business woman, so she must obey without hesitation.

The train she was expected to take for a town in Northern New York left the Grand Central station at five o'clock. Mr. Mandel had told her she might go directly and pack. It was only a little after two, and she knew with Rachel's help she could pack all she needed in a half an hour. At first she thought of telephoning Brian to meet her at the train and say "good bye." Then she decided she would surprise him. So she jumped into a taxi and gave his office address to the driver.

She found Brian doggedly at work over some papers. He scowled as she opened the door, interrupting him. But when he turned and saw her, the scowl left his face to be replaced by one of amazement. Unless it had been to meet him to go somewhere for the evening, Ruth never had visited the office.

"I have to go away at five, so I came down to say good-bye," she said as brightly as she was able. It tore her heart-strings to leave him again. She told him in a few words where she was going, how long she expected to remain.

He listened in silence, making no objection. When she finished she said: "Who's going with you?" thought of Mandel bringing the scowl back to his face.

"No one! Why?"

"I thought perhaps that boss of yours was going with you again. He seems to like to have you with him. Pays you enough for your society."

"Oh, Brian!" was all that Ruth said in reply to his unkind insinuation, but her eyes filled.

"That's right! play the innocent! Of course you don't know he is in love with you. You never thought of such a thing."

"No, Brian, I never have. If you could see just how Mr. Mandel is with me, you would not say such untrue and such unkind things. I am simply one of his clerks. That is all. He is

always gentlemanly. Never anything more."

"And I am not that, I suppose."

"Oh, Brian," she said again. How could she go and do the work expected of her and leave him in this mood! To her harassed mind and heart, his words affected her more than he had any idea. Disturbing thoughts of Mollie King also intruded. She would not say one word to make him more impatient of her going than he already was.

She said she must be going, then waited, hoping he would say something about being at the train, or at least that he would go down to the taxi with her. Unfortunately, she made a faux pas at this juncture, one upon which he was quick to seize.

"It is too bad you can't ride home with me." She said, "But I see you are busy. When the firm pays for the taxi, I feel quite reckless, so kept it waiting."

"Furnishes you with taxis too, does he? I suppose all the rest of his clerks are sent around in taxis at his expense. I believe you just said you were one of his clerks."

Ruth scarcely knew what to say or do. She felt she couldn't leave Brian in his present state of mind. He would be reckless while she was away; and she thinking of him, would be unfitted for her work.

"Brian, dear, please let us be fair to each other," she said, putting her arms around his neck and kissing him. I love you with all my heart, dear. I never give a single thought to anyone else. And you know it too, you naughty boy. Now kiss me and send me away with a smile."

She was hard to resist, when in this mood. Brian kissed her, then took her in his arms and told her he was a brute and several other things. When perfect peace had been made, he took her down to the taxi and stood watching as long as he could see her waving at him.

Monday—Mr. Mandel Urges Ruth To Take a Rest. She Refuses.

A message can now complete the circle of the globe while we breakfast. Men fly from Rome to London while we do a day's work. A hundred thousand warriors traverse the Atlantic in a week. In and out of New York City go 200,000 people every day. The automobile, which was a great curiosity twenty years ago, is now the carrier of millions of people daily.

Men have come to defy science, and its achievements instead of seeing in these great developments a direct fulfillment of Daniel's words. The great running to and fro and increase of knowledge, together with the fulfillment of prophecies, indicate that the time to which Daniel referred is here—the time of the end." (See Dan. 12:4.) There are very few prophecies, yet to be fulfilled before we reach the time mentioned in Daniel 12:1 and Revelation 22:10-12.

These are solemn times, times when the judgments of God are bringing men to their senses, times when men are deciding their own destiny for eternity; the time when the nations are angry and God's wrath is come, and the time of the dead that they should be judged (see Revelation 11:18); the time when the "gospel of the kingdom" is to be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (see Matthew 24:14). "Who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:17.) For an answer to this all-important question, read the 15th Psalm and the 3rd and 4th verses of the 24th Psalm; Ecclesiastes 12:13,14; and Revelation 22:14.

Even while we become weaker physically, let us determine to become wiser spiritually.

Respectfully yours,
WEAKER & WISER.

Open Forum

SOLDIERS' PROPERTY INTERESTS.

In answer to an item in the Capital Journal dated October 24, 1918, "City to build sidewalks where owners refuse," I wish to say that several names were mentioned. Among them one party, whose address was given as living somewhere in South Dakota, is now in the United States army and has been for the past year, and is unable to attend to local business at present.

As Uncle Sam protects our soldiers, we hope the city will protect this man's property until his return.

MRS. C. BRODESON.

WEAKER AND WISER.

To the Editor:
We often hear it said that "men are becoming weaker and wiser," and there is good reason for the statement. In the 5th chapter of Genesis we have the record of many men who lived more than 500 years, or about twenty times as long as the average person lives now. It is therefore safe to say men then had twenty times as much vital force as they have now, and were much larger.

The bedstead of Og, king of Bashan, was nine cubits long, or about fifteen

OUR JOYOUS HOPES.

We left our dear old parents
Our wives and sweethearts, too,
And crossed the great Atlantic
It was a joyous voyage, too;
To conquer that great demon
Which has been lurking around our door,
For all we want is liberty,
And peace for evermore.

We are going to fight the battle
Until this thing is through,
And get peace for all the allies
And then return to you.

PRIVATE JOHN W. EASTBURN
Headquarters, Co. C. P. W. Enclosure A.
E. F. France.
(Sent to his mother Mrs. Mary Eastburn, Amnville, Oregon.)

feet and four inches. (See Expt. 3:11.) Even down in David's time, after the life of man had been greatly shortened with doubtless a corresponding decrease in size and strength, Goliath was six cubits and a span in height, or about ten feet and seven inches. (See Samuel 17:4.) There can be no question but what men are becoming weaker. Are they also becoming wiser?

About 2,500 years ago, the prophet Daniel said that at a certain time "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." One hundred years ago there were no railways and no trans-oceanic steamship lines. Even in 1843, King Louis Philippe was afraid to board a train. Forty-three years ago the telephone was unknown; now 50,000,000 messages are sent daily in this country. Seventy years ago cables were unknown; but now they connect all the large ports in the world. The year 1879 saw the first electric railway, 1901 the first wireless telegraph, and 1903 the first aeroplane.

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MRS. VINCENT ASTOR SERVING IN A "GY" CANTREEN IN FRANCE.—Mrs. Vincent Astor has been one of the most ardent workers in the French Canteens. She has made herself very popular with both United States and French soldiers.