

NOTES AND COMMENTS

While our troops are fighting like the heroes of classic ages, war is growing acute at home. We jeered at the blockade, but today we laugh no longer. The sinister aspect of things certainly provides no food for laughter.—Frankfurter Zeitung.

There has been a noticeable weakening of official denials that a shortage of food existed in Germany. It was said that there was food enough, but that distribution was faulty. Now the statement is made that prices are being raised in order to enforce economy, a cruel and incredible interpretation of the extraordinary utterances, in the journals which come to this country some indication of the true crisis is seen.

The Magdeburger Zeitung, the paper quoted above, Zukunft, Vorwärts and the journals of every metropolitan centre, confirm the truth that the situation at home is so grave that it invalidates the extraordinary successes of German arms in the field. Further it is reported that "prices are much higher in Hungary than in Germany," and the Leipzig Volkszeitung protests the reality of England's blockade and asserts that the Government does not protect civilians from speculators.

Two things may be remarked in this connection. One is that the Government, obviously working for a decisive victory, is giving every atom of food energy to the soldiers of its own and allied armies, and that such a situation, even on a small scale, must work hardship for civilians. The second is that Germany's dependents in active service are so many, are scattered over so wide and so unproductive an area that even without the blockade she would be pressed beyond endurance to maintain a war of attrition against her enemies. She must win decisively in the field, or she will lose in the famine camps.

We must not wonder that Germany beats so persistently, even if so ineffectually, against the walls of her cage. We must not be hurt that Germany is bitter against us. She is starving.

We shall win this war one day, and most credit will go, as usual, to those who are in at the finish. But when we assign the glory and praise, let us not forget those who stood up to the first rush. The new armies which for many months have poured across the English Channel will bring us victory in the end. Let us bare our heads, then, in all reverence to the memory of those battered, decimated, indomitable legions which saved us from utter extinction at the beginning.

THE EXTRAORDINARY CROPS.

Should Be No Let-up in Canada's Farm Output.

The Government estimate of \$800,000,000 as the value of Canadian field crops for 1915 coincides with independent business estimates. The total is so much in excess of the best previous output by Canadian farmers that upon the first statement it might reasonably be regarded as exaggerated. It is indeed remarkable that in one year the value of the field crops could be increased from about \$550,000,000 to \$800,000,000, an increase of about 45 per cent., notwithstanding a great decline in prices. The extraordinary yields per acre for grain in the West contributed the chief part of the great surplus, but another important factor was the increase in acreage as a result of the war and of the special campaign on production conducted last winter. The result of that campaign may be summed up in the figures, which show that the additional wheat acreage was about two million, and the average yield about 28 bushels to the acre. The campaign therefore led directly or indirectly to an increased output of about 50,000,000 bushels.

If it was important for Canada last year to have large increases in crops, it is equally so this year. The recovery in business has tended to distract public attention from the crops question. For the payment of Canada's large war commitments we must have steady progress in output. The weather is, of course, beyond control, and it has a powerful say in what the harvest shall be, but even if the extraordinary yields of last year are not again attained for several years the area planted should go on expanding. Are steps being taken to urge another special year of crop expansion? If not, they ought to be. The exceptional returns from the yield now being marketed ought of themselves to be a sufficient incentive to larger production. But a considerable part of the Canadian army now overseas and in training at home consists of farmers' sons and farm hands. Withdrawal of effective labor from the farms may tend to diminish the area under cultivation. Farmers who have done remarkably well in one year do not always come back to their cropping with equal vigor. They "take it a little easier." Under the special circumstances of Canada's position as a belligerent, there ought to be no let-up in Government efforts to develop our farm output, for we shall need very large crops for several years to pull us triumphantly through the world's financial crisis.

Promised to Call.

Aurelia (anxiously)—"Have you seen George this evening, papa? He promised to call."

Papa—"Yes, he did call, and I entertained him for an hour before you came downstairs."

Aurelia—"You entertained him, papa?"

Papa—"Yes. I gave him a list of all the new dresses you had last year, and the cost of each. I never saw a man more interested, yet he left very hurriedly."

Wealthy Russians are buried in glass coffins.

HEALTH

Treatment of Pneumonia.

The first symptoms of pneumonia are not usually different from those of a severe cold. There is likely to be a chill, followed by a slight rise of temperature, loss of appetite, headache, and a cough that raises some mucous expectoration. That is the case when the pneumonia is "primary." In the "secondary" cases, when the pneumonia accompanies some other illness, all the symptoms may be masked by those of the original disease, so that the pneumonia is established before anyone has even suspected the fact.

In those cases the patient is already under the care of doctor and nurse, and the pneumonia must be treated as a complication of the original disease. But when a person who has hitherto been well comes down with pneumonia, the question of treatment becomes very important. Pneumonia is a disease for which there is no specific treatment,—once contracted, it must run its course,—there are few illnesses in which the sort of care that a patient receives so greatly influences the result of the attack.

A good physician must be put in charge of the case. He will attend to each symptom as it arises, and his orders must be scrupulously obeyed. The largest, best-ventilated and sunlit room in the house should be taken for the sick room, no matter who is disturbed thereby. Fresh air should circulate through it day and night, although a cold wind must not blow directly upon the patient. Some account should be taken of the sufferer's condition from hour to hour, and the room should be kept a little cooler when his temperature is high.

It was once thought that, because pneumonia so often follows a cold, it was best to keep the patient smothered in blankets in a warm room, but we have learned better. If two rooms can be used, it is a good plan to carry the sick person from one to the other and take that opportunity to ventilate the vacant room thoroughly. Indeed, pneumonia is most successfully treated in the open air, as far as that is possible. A slight application of mustard to the chest, covered by an oil-skin jacket, is helpful. Do not give the patient ice water, but let him have all the cool, pure water he will drink. Stimulants and drugs to relieve the pain must be prescribed only by the physician. The nurse in charge should stay constantly with the patient.—Youth's Companion.

"Keep Well" Advice.

Breathe fresh air at all times. Keep regular habits. Avoid excesses of all kinds, with special emphasis on alcohol and tobacco. Eat moderately, of simple and wholesome food. Sleep eight hours in 24; early to bed and early to rise. Bathe frequently, as cleanliness is essential to good health. Exercise at regular intervals. Be outdoors as much as possible. Avoid places and persons with communicable diseases. Remember that our health is our wealth and it should be held in good keeping.

Health Hints.

Lemons rubbed on the forehead will cure a severe headache. You can remove dust from the eye by peeling an onion. This makes the eye water, and the dust is washed out. Unless eaten to excess butter is one of the most wholesome foods. Children that are kept well supplied with butter do not require to be doctored with cod liver oil, which is less as the butter is the cheaper. Consumptive people and diabetics should be supplied with as much butter as they can digest without giving rise to biliousness.

GERMANS NERVOUS NOW.

No Longer Jubilant Over Early Peace With Victory.

Writing on conditions in Berlin, the New York World's correspondent, who recently visited Germany, says: "A great change has come over Berlin. Eight months ago you could scarcely notice while on a visit to the capital that Germany was engaged in war and that she and her people were fighting for their existence. True, you noticed a lot of soldiers, many wounded and some crippled for life, but the city itself, and the people, appeared to all outward indications as if nothing unusual was transpiring. The citizens looked... What a difference to-day! The Berlin people seem to have changed completely. Last spring they appeared a happy lot, with no cares to worry them, certainly not so far as outer appearances were concerned. To-day you find only a solemn people—a people who appear to, and who do, realize what this war means to Germany and her millions. They are no longer the happy-go-lucky and care-free crowd. They are stern, severely so. They are no longer a smiling crowd. They are very, very solemn, indeed.

The have come to look upon the entire situation in the most serious manner imaginable. They know that the longer the war lasts the more lives must be sacrificed. They realize, too, that many industries must suffer, and that fortunes will be swept away if this war should last for many more years to come. They are no longer of the opinion that peace is to come to them in the near future.

Elderly Lady (to workman who has given her his seat in the train)—"Oh, thank you very much." Workman—"Oh, that's nothing at all, miss. Many men get up when the lady is pretty, but it never makes any difference to me."

THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON. FEBRUARY 6.

Lesson VI.—The Boldness of Peter and John, Acts 4. 1-31. Golden Text: 1 Cor. 16. 13.

The scene is the Sanhedrin, and the inquisition is in the hands of the Sadducee aristocracy, the "high priests"; that is, the one who by priests of the Roman governor was reigning at the time, Caiaphas, and the living ex-high priest, Hanan the father-in-law of Caiaphas at their head, and members of "the kindred of the high priest" who might at any time be appointed to the pontificate. Luke represents their special concern at the nemesia which had overtaken their judicial murder of the Nazarene. Now his resurrection proclaimed by many witnesses and attested by undeniable miracles, was humiliating them in their standing debate with the Pharisees, who were actually joining the new sect (compare Acts 15. 5) because of the tremendous impulse it had given to the great doctrine of the hereafter.

Verse 8. Rulers.—The high priests, Elders.—Ordinary members of the Sanhedrin. The latter title (Presbyters in Greek) was taken over from the Jews—who shared it with heathen religions, as the Egyptian—the Christian church. See Acts 22. 5. We.—Emphatic, like ye in verse 7—"men like you!" Examined.—A technical word for a preliminary inquiry: the Sanhedrin must first begin with a fishing inquiry, for it was not easy to discover a crime in "a benefit done to a sick man." The work of the Holy Spirit is seen in the skill with which they reduce their persecutors to futility and seize the opportunity to exalt their living Master in the most convincing way. By means.—Margin "in whom"; anticipates the in him of verse 10.

10. In the name.—See Acts 2. 38, and also verse 36, for Christ, the title the assertion of which would anger these Sadducees beyond anything. They had doomed him to the cross for claiming it (Mark 14. 61f.), and now this irrefutable sign has proved that they only gave him thereby the step to his throne. Of Nazareth.—The Greek adjective here is that of Matt. 2. 23, which is distinct from that of Mark 1. 24, and may possibly denote a Messianic title.

11. Psa. 118. 22 took a very conspicuous place among the Old Testament proofs used by the apostles, following their Master's example.

12. Salvation.—Or "the Messianic salvation," as in John 4. 22. Not that salvation and saved are the same word as that rendered made whole in verse 9. Christ came to redeem the whole man, body and soul. The rest of the verse may be paraphrased: "for Gal. 1. 6) 'name no different' (compare Gal. 1. 6) 'name no different' under the sky than this which is God's gift among men, that by its power we ourselves—no, the privileged people of God—must be saved if we are to be saved at all."

13. Unlearned.—The word constantly used in the Egyptian papyri for a man or woman who cannot write. These academic persons affected to regard Jesus himself (John 7. 15) and his disciples as mere illiterates. Took knowledge.—The imperfect tense in the Greek suggests that the recognition of his thoughts and style kept pressing itself upon them throughout the address summarized in verses 8-12.

14. How did Luke learn the substance of this consultation behind closed doors? In Acts 26. 11 we have the confession of one who voted there.

16. Notable miracle.—Or "a known sign." The word is repeated from verse 20; the deed was recognized throughout Jerusalem as no deed of man, but done by God through them.

17. Spread.—Like an infectious disease. Threat.—Two important authorities read, "with threatening let us threaten," a well-known Hebrew idiom for "threaten sternly." It is quite likely that they are right. In this name.—They will not mention the hated name themselves. The next verse does not contain their actual words as this does. "To speak in the name" implies primarily the actual pronouncing of it continually in connection with teaching and healing. A people whose instinct taught them to see deep significance in names would quickly realize that this was something more than a new "Joshua"; the resurrection gave "Jehovah" is salvation a new meaning. Hence the refusal of Jews to help him. In the Talmud he is generally indicated by opprobrious allusion.

19. Judge ye.—The pronoun is not emphatic, like the we in verse 20; the whole stress lies on the choice that has to be made, not on those who have to make it.

21. The renewed threats were futile enough now, but they remembered that fear of the people had kept them from laying hands on Jesus—for a time. Glorified God.—Compare Mark 2. 12, the similar sequel of a similar miracle. Anything less wonderful might have made them praise the human wonder-worker. The comparison of the two stories makes us recognize afresh that both "signs" were among the "things which Jesus did" (John 21. 25).

Germans Knew Where He Was.

The German commander in Brussels sometimes issues passports to Belgians who wish to cross the Dutch frontier, bail of several thousands francs being taken for their return by a certain day. A Belgian recently obtained such a ticket-of-leave, and went to Holland, and then thought he would take the opportunity to see his family in London. He came over to England, but returned to the Belgian frontier in good time. There the German officials asked: "Where have you been?" "In Holland," was the reply. "Anywhere else?" "No." On this the German officer produced two snapshots. One showed the Belgian stepping on board ship for England. The other had been taken in his London hotel.

Without a Country



King Nicholas of Montenegro, the third monarch driven from his capital by the Hun invaders.

The Fashions

Novelties on Spring Counters.

Even the most skeptical among us must be thrilled and interested by the attractive novelties Fashion is now placing on her spring counters, and in her spring shops. For instance there are the quaint bonnets which are being displayed at the moment in our millinery departments, as a logical sequence of the modish gathered and flaring skirts.

Fluttering about one of these bonnets, a fascinating creation of garnet braid and white gardenias, in one of our smart shops the other afternoon, dressed all in gray. She wore one of the new faille suits, made with a rather close fitting coat, flaring widely at the lower edge, combined with the most modern of old-fashioned skirts. It was a veritable "pull-back," having all of the fullness drawn to the back and held by a tape fastened at the side seams—fitting as smoothly and plainly across the front as the narrowest of skirts did when in back, the skirt was stiffened with haircloth, causing the fullness to fall in several outstanding folds. At the involuntary upward and downward glance she induced, one expected to see a pair of extremely high French heels on silver-buckled slippers, or a high-crowned, flower-trimmed chapeau.

As the small person continued on her way from counter to counter, the skirt swung in true, hoop-skirt wear, the dark blue serge, jumper frock combined with an underbone of crape de Chine, Georgette, or black satin, is most satisfactory. The fact that the underbone may be changed, and the frock so varied, makes its appeal to women who like a change now and then, but who cannot afford a great number of frocks.

Satin or taffeta blouses or jumpers, with sleeves of a transparent or contrasting material are still being worn for afternoons and more dressy occasions, combined with skirts or taffeta, faille or satin.

Patterns can be obtained at your local McCall dealer, or from The McCall Company, Department "W," 70 Bond St., Toronto, Ontario.

Jumper Dress of Serge.

When the Great European Conflict Is Ended.

Warfare between the sexes such as has been unknown since the days of the mythological Amazons is predicted for England after the war by Prof. Marion Phillips, D.Sc. Prof. Phillips bases this gloomy prediction upon the great mass of women who will be dependent. A mighty commercial war is expected to follow the conflict in arms, in which unprecedented numbers of women will be thrown upon the market.

The war has already opened numberless positions in the working world to women, and the contention is that they will fight against giving them up when peace is declared.

The prediction is made that suffragette militancy on an enormous scale will follow, and there will be bloodshed if attempts are made to force women back into the niche they formerly occupied.

The remedy suggested by Prof. Phillips is absolute equality; the same work and the same wages for men and women; and the same responsibilities and the same competitions.

"The scene which confronts us is a gloomy one," says Prof. Phillips. "A horde of men and women, many wasted by the hard work of these years of trial, trade depression and a wave of poverty and exhaustion are all held by the future years. Men will return from the war to find their places taken by women, and women will be displaced because the war work has ceased and peace work is not for them.

"The very efficiency and adaptability of the women is in itself a danger, so long as it is not combined with the industrial pride which demands a fair return for the amount of labor given. In this scene are all the elements of sex-warfare of a very terrible nature—sex warfare in which the male workers and the women dependent upon them are ranked against women who must work or die."

Spain has more sunshine than any other country in Europe.

well and are generally so entirely satisfactory.

The Vogue of White.

White will be quite as modish for skirt, suit and frock this season as it has been for the past summer or two. Serge, gabardine and broadcloth are smart for those who can afford more than one white frock or suit, but for the practical woman cotton corduroy in its various cords will be far more practical; it may be easily and effectively tumbled when soiled. These corduroys come in the pale pinks, blues, yellows, and similar tones for separate skirts, suits and sport coats or blouses.

Among the season's novelties is the house coat; it closely resembles the sport coat or blouse, and could in fact be used for the same purposes, but it has been designed for house wear, to take the place, as it were, of the kimono, with the woman who does not care for, or who has not the time to indulge in, the luxury of so complete a negligee as a kimono, or similar loose-fitting house robe. These are being developed in the colored cotton corduroys, and in like corded cottons. They are finished with wide collars, deep, roomy pockets, and are loosely belted. Combined with skirts of white linen, duck, khaki, or cotton corduroy, they are excellently suited to morning wear and the jumper.

Popularity of the Jumper. The jumper dress or blouse is one of the most satisfactory notions introduced for many seasons; instead of losing favor because of its general popularity, it is, on the contrary, becoming daily more in demand. For business, street, and general daytime

well and are generally so entirely satisfactory.

LAND OF GRAVES AND TRENCHES

POLAND HAS BEEN LAID WASTE BY THE WAR.

Trenches Are the Only Homes of Many Thousands of Polish Refugees.

Even more depressing than parts of Belgium and East Prussia, the worst parts, is Poland—a land of graves and trenches, of ruin and destruction on a scale that has been wrought nowhere else by the war. The conflict has been waged back and forth across the ancient kingdom so long that agriculture has had but little chance, and, except in those sections where the German forces have been in control for some time, the fields are barren and untilled, scarred by miles upon miles of earthworks, says a Warsaw despatch.

"Homes" of Refugees.

From the East Prussian boundary to approximately the old Rawka position there is visible the maximum amount of order and peaceful quiet. At the Rawka, however, the interminable graves, with their helmet-adorned crosses, the deep slashes in the earth that once were trenches but now are the temporary "homes" of countless refugees, the maze of partly destroyed barbed wire entanglements and the succession of burned and ruined villages begin.

For miles, between Alexandrovo on the boundary and Warsaw, and between Warsaw and Lodz, the old trenches line the railroad, while graves, individual and common, line the trenches. Eastward of Warsaw, however, the trenches virtually stop, abandoned the capital of Poland. The trenches do not. Rather the increased number and there is scarcely a railroad station—and no bridges—a left standing.

Travelling in Ireland. An English tourist, while travelling in Ireland, was one day accosted by a beggar. He felt in his pocket for a sixpence, but finding that he had nothing smaller than a shilling gave it to the woman, with the words, "You must give me the change, the next time we meet." "Oh, will, replied the beggar, "and may yer honor live till ye get it!"

Wife.—"There are so very few real good men in the world." Hubby.—"Yes, you were mighty lucky to get one."



The School Report.

In Reading I am "Good," it says; In Spelling, "Excellent"; And always in Geography I get a high per cent.

I'm "Good," too, in Arithmetic, In Music and the rest; And father says he's glad to know In school I do my best.

But then he shakes his head, and says He wonders how 'twould be If teacher asked him to make out A "Home Report" for me.

There's "Rising Early," "Bed on Time," And "Minding Promptly," too; And "Table Ways" and "Cheerfulness," And "Little Things to Do."

In some, perhaps, I might get "Good"; In others, I am sure My marks would not be more than "Fair," And some would be just "Poor."

Bobbie's Pictures. Bobbie came and leaned against his brother Will's knee. "Mother brought me these picture papers," he said. "And I should like to have little Ted see them. I promised that he

should see them, but if I send them to him, they'll all have to be burned, because he has the measles."

"Run and ask Nellie to give you a piece of paraffin" said his brother. "A piece from a jelly tumbler will do—if it is washed clean."

Away Bobbie ran to the kitchen, and he soon returned with the paraffin. He was eager and interested. "Now," said Will, "take this piece of plain white paper and rub it all over with the paraffin. Be sure that the paper is well covered. Lay the paper on the picture with the paraffin side down. Now take this little wooden block, or anything that has a sharp edge, and rub the paper as hard as you can without tearing it."

"Oh, oh!" laughed Bobbie, as he turned the paper over. "The pictures have all come off on the white paper, and they're not blurred at all! See how plain they are! Will they come off like that every time?"

"It is easier to transfer pictures from rough paper, like newspaper and the kind most of the magazines are printed on," said Will, "but if you rub on plenty of paraffin you can transfer a picture of any kind."

"Now," said Bobbie, "I can send our best pictures to Ted, and I need not care if they are burned."—Youth's Companion.

The Coming of Religion

MORALS ARE BEING INJECTED INTO BUSINESS AND POLITICS AND EVEN INTO RELIGION.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."—St. Matthew vii. 12.

We to-day see the breaking up of creeds, because we are at last realizing that they are mere human statements. Idle tradition is no longer allowed to hold sway. Precedents are without authority unless they can justify themselves. Only as past tradition or precedent has intrinsic value to-day can it live.

Only now here and there is human-ity preparing to welcome the new religion of Jesus and the prophets. This religion of deed, of righteousness, of character, is the twentieth century electric light type of religion. We have passed through the candle light and gas light stage of the Christian religion. The pressure to-day is toward the electric light of the noonday sun.

A Glorious Day is Ahead For real religion—the religion of deed rather than of creed; the religion of moral character rather than of dogma. Religion is a living force, not a dead principle. It is something for seven days in the week, and something that affects human conduct every hour of the day. This, we to-day believe, is the religion Jesus stood for—a religion that is fundamental and non-sectarian—and this is just the religion that the really civilized and progressive world is looking for.

Men and women have been crying for bread—the bread of religion. Humanity is to-day hungering and thirsting after God. A great controlling motive to-day is

fear. This plays the largest part in the determination of the conduct of men and women. The love of pleasure and ease and comfort is a great human weakness that produces no stability of character. The love of money or avarice is a widely prevailing sin, but the most widely prevailing weakness is moral cowardice, due to fear. Men and women fear because they have no practical faith in God. They rank and file of men and women do not know God. He is the great reality in religion and in life.

What We Need To-day is a great compelling sense of the reality and nearness of God. Jesus had a wonderful sense of the reality of God, and Jesus knew no fear. Moral cowardice was not in His makeup. What is left in the great modern transition from theology to religion? God is left, Jesus is left, a glorious, rich, full life, here and hereafter, is left. Everything of value is left. The Golden Rule, above all, is left, and the Golden Rule is Jesus' summary of the very essence of religion. This sums up man's duty to God and man. This is the law and the prophets. When men really live this principle as their religion, then man's relation to man will be ideal. Thank God, the day of real freedom, of real justice, of real democracy, is coming apace. The Golden Rule is to replace the rule of gold, "Our God is marching on." "His truth is marching on."

It is only a question of time when ignorance and blindness must pass away and we shall have real religion—the religion of the Golden Rule, the religion of God, God speed the day!—Rev. William Milton Hess, Ph.D.