

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Great Britain is soon to take the last step in the process of war organization. The government will assume a greater control over food supplies.

There is here nothing quite equaling the German organization and control of food supplies. The question of the proper territorial distribution of fats, for instance, has not yet become important in Great Britain.

Such measures in Great Britain bear striking witness to the fact that that country does not even profess to see the end in sight.

In spite of the difficulties that have confronted China under the new regime, the government has shown a growing efficiency, particularly in a fiscal way, according to a writer in a recent issue of the Quarterly Journal of Economics.

The new government has declared and is extending its control over the chief agencies of internal commerce.

Growing popular confidence in the government is significantly demonstrated by the two internal loans successfully floated without compulsion in 1914 and 1915.

New taxes, we are told, have been applied or are projected. Reports are that an income tax is to be imposed on official salt merchants and firms and companies in general.

SOAP SCARCER IN RUSSIA.

Poor People Will Get Laundry Done at Public Places. Because the price of soaps and starch necessities for washing as starch borax, and the like has increased in Russia beyond the reach of the poor people, it is proposed to establish in Vilna a number of 'commercial laundries' for patronage by those who cannot afford to pay dearly for cleanliness.

Quite Enough. "Please, sir," piped the tiny customer, whose heat scarcely reached the counter, "father wants some oak varnish."

"How much does your father want, my little man?" inquired the smiling shopman. "Father says you was to fill this," replied the little fellow, handing over a pint jar.

The poorest excuse a man can give is to blame society for his own shortcomings.

HEALTH

Milk. Milk is one of the best of foods, especially for the young and for the sick; but at the same time it may be one of the worst of poisons.

These dangerous germs may be in the milk from the beginning, for they may come from the cow herself; or they may enter during the process of milking, if they were on the hands of the milker or are thrown into the fluid by a careless cough or sneeze; they may be in the can, if it has been washed with impure water; they may get into the milk when it is poured from one container into another; or they may find their way in when it stands in open vessels in the home.

The only protection, therefore, is extreme care in handling the milk at every step—in the dairy, during transit, and in the home. The cow must be healthy, and she must be kept in clean surroundings.

A circular that the Department of Agriculture has issued mentions the "three c's of safety" in the care of milk: "Keep milk clean, cold, covered." If the dairyman and the dealer have done their part, you need only observe that precept in order to have wholesome milk.

The Laws of Laughter. To "laugh and grow fat" may not appeal to those whose frames are already over-covered with adipose, but good, hearty laughter brings other excellent things in its train.

7. This recurrent verse, which tells us that these "open letters" are meant for the whole church, is an echo, coming from the Lord's earthly ministry.

8. Smyrna.—The only town of the seven that still flourishes—so far as a city under Turkish government can!

9. Poverty (but thou art rich) The exact converse of Laodicea (Rev. 3: 17). See Matt. 5: 3; James 2: 5.

10. The devil.—Not a mere synonym of Satan, which is now a real proper name (as it was not in the Old Testament). "Devil" means slanderer; the appearance of the idea in Job, where "the Satan" (adversary) is one of the "sons of God," whose function it is to test pretensions to virtue.

11. The crown of life.—So in James 1: 12, where the hero of the book and his companions are "proved ten days." As they came forth fairer from this short testing of their principles, so shall the Smyrna confessors from their trial. Faithful unto death is the same phrase as obedient unto death in Phil. 2: 8, except for the adjective, which is nearly equivalent.

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THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON DECEMBER 10

Lesson XI. Faithful Unto Death. Rev. 2: 1-17. Golden Text—Rev. 2: 10.

Verse 1. The angel, as stated last week, is the spiritual counterpart of the church in the unseen world. It differs from our impersonations of a collective unity—as when we speak of the achievements or the failures of "Methodism" in its suggesting a real existence.

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GERMANS SICK OF THE WAR

SEE NO OBJECT IN FIGHTING ANY LONGER.

The Significant Report of an Enemy Non-Commissioned Officer.

A vivid account of life in the German front line opposite the British Army on the Somme has reached the London Daily Mirror from a reliable source.

"The enemy's army," wrote a German corporal in a captured diary, "are far superior, especially in numbers. Our army are powerless and are not to fight as soon as the enemy machines approach our trench lines."

"Many air fights take place. About eighteen captive balloons are up on the other side; only two of ours are to be seen."

"The artillery fire is quite tremendous. The English army are often over our wood. We are often obliged to seek cover from aircraft. The airmen, nevertheless, must have seen our encampments, tents, etc., for vigorous artillery fire on our bivouac followed, all the evening, mostly 15cm. shells. We seek cover in holes over 6ft. deep."

The men arrive at the support trenches "all quite done up," having doubled for part of the way, look about for shelters and find some in a half ruined "ammunition and stores gallery" which had been hit during the day.

"The men lie to a large extent in shell holes and the English aircraft descend to about a height of 200 ft. and fire on the garrison with machine gun and signal with horns."

"The corporal then describes the difficulties of relieving, under our artillery fire. The column marches up in the evening, but an English airman, flying low, observes it on the road, just before dark, and calls down shrapnel upon it."

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SHIPBUILDING AFTER THE WAR

TEN MILLION TONS OF NEW SHIPS NEEDED.

There Will Be a Big Boom For Steel-makers and the Allied Industries.

From present indications, shipbuilding will be among the first industries to show activity at the end of the war. The United States, Great Britain, Japan, Canada, Norway and Australia have entered as competitors in shipbuilding.

Before the war the world had just sufficient ships to take care of international commerce. There was a steady annual output to keep pace with the demand and with the normal maritime losses. This annual output of merchant vessels was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Number, Tons. Data for years 1915 to 1905.

Since 1914, with the diversion of shipyards to naval construction, shortage of labor and other causes, the annual output decreased, leaving shortage of new construction, conservatively estimated at 3,500,000 gross tons.

The amount of shipping destroyed up to the end of October verges on 3,500,000 tons. In addition to these ships to be replaced is the average annual building of nearly 3,000,000 tons, based on 1911-13 figures, and an indeterminate quantity of construction for ships in service, due to incessant voyages and consequent extraordinary depreciation.

10,000,000 Tons New Ships. Destructions continue, and the improvement in the number of vessels launched has been comparatively slight. Therefore, if the war came to a sudden conclusion within a few

Under certain conditions the sound of gunfire can be heard at great distances. The firing at Waterloo is said to have been heard in Kent, England, one hundred and thirty or more miles away.

Princess Arthur of Connaught, the beautiful and charming consort of the Duke of Connaught's heir, is one of the most versatile of princesses.

The Princess, besides being an accomplished musician, which are peculiarly valuable in showing how archaeology brings out the vividness of the illustrations used.

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Three Mackinaw Crows. One day Old Mackinaw, on the shores of the big blue water, three black crows found a fish. "Caw, caw, caw!" said the first crow. "Caw, caw, caw!" said the second crow. "Caw, caw, caw!" said the third crow.

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ALL SOUTH W

British Government and Press. A dispatch from London under the date of the 11th inst. from the Board of Trade, and from December 11th inst. of all the coal mines in the country.

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Archduke Charles Francis, Grand-nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph, becomes heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary.



Archduchess Zita, wife of Archduke Charles Francis Joseph.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "ALL SOUTH W", "British Government and Press", and various small notices.