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Germany's "amazing preparedness" may turn out to be an amazing miscalculation.

Japan is preparing to go to Siberia. Well, the Car of all the Russias went there without any preparation.

If these food restrictions get any worse eating will no longer be an indoor sport but a medicinal operation.

"Hash Makes 124 Ill," says a newspaper headline. But look at the untold millions it has made forever sceptical of all things seen or tasted!

The Germans are using a new poisonous gas against the Americans. The latter cannot be intimidated by Hun horrors, any more than the English or Canadians could be intimidated.

Pity the poor married man who has to produce his marriage certificate for the inspection of the military authorities. Chances are, he didn't know such a document existed.

Some of the Kingston girls who are knitting sweaters for their soldier or sailor friends in the trenches or on the North Sea hope to have them done by August.

The Government has called to Ottawa women from all parts of Canada to consult with its members upon war problems. Here is something unique yet hopeful in the annals of parliamentary administration.

Thirty years ago 12,000 signatures were secured in Kingston to a petition to the Ontario Legislature asking that the franchise be given to women. Reforms are a long time a-coming, but eventually they arrive.

"Toronto is being reduced to the level of Petrograd by the Pharisees of Platitudes and Pacifism," shouts the Toronto Telegram. Right here we rise to remark that something terrible is obscuring apt alliteration's artful aid.

This country is now buying between \$400,000,000 and \$500,000,000 worth of goods annually from the United States. What has become of the old election cry: "No trade or truck with the Yankees?" It appears to be as dead as a last year's bird's nest.

"Stress, anvils and compressed air riveters are used in the latest Sousa march. Wait till the girl next door tries this on her piano when you are trying to read!" warns the Montreal Star. Very true, brother, but when the activities of the girl next door are assisted by a piano and a phonograph in your own domicile, what then?

"Have faith in yourself," Dr. Lyman Abbott once sagely advised. And he added: "Take the highest conception which you can conceive of yourself and act on it. Believe you have a voice which can pierce the clouds, believe that you have an eye that will see the Eternal. Set yourself to try what you can do with yourself."

Prof. David Starr Jordan points out that the dynamic systems of today, not being elected by the people, are forced to claim for themselves a divine origin. On this they erect a

Theory of a supreme state which lies beyond the reach of morals and can do no wrong. It calls philosophy and a state church to its aid in enforcing on society the three collective duties, service, conformity and efficiency; and on the individual the three personal duties of being a soldier, paying taxes and keeping his mouth shut.

WHY THIS FEAR? Why is the Public Utilities Commission afraid to make public its financial statement? Last week it sat behind closed doors when the statement was under consideration, the press representatives being asked to retire. Why should the public not know how its electric, gas and water plants got on financially last year? Let us have the financial statement so that it may be dissected.

STABLE GOVERNMENT OUR NEED.

The collapse of Russia in the great war was not due so much to the German war machine as to internal causes. The nations of the Allies are free from any danger of a similar fate. Enlightened democracies, they early in the war realized the necessity for re-adjustments and modifications to expedite war measures. Indeed tardiness was manifested in some cases, but general success has been attained.

Politicians of pre-war fame have dropped out of sight, for the time being, in all of the countries engaged in the struggle. In Canada we have seen such changes incident to the war. The Government is a new Government, being elected to prosecute the war in accordance with its pronounced policy. There is still a minority in Parliament to scrutinize legislation and prove the merit of the personnel of Government.

In the late election we had Unionists, Liberals, Conservative Unionists, Liberal Unionists, Socialists and Nationalists. Who is the prophet who now comes to pronounce a new Shibboleth?

Canada and the Empire are now engaged in pressing the Huns over the Rhine. Did not Augustus sigh for more legions and mourn for those lost by Varus on the Rhine frontier in preserving to the world the glorious inheritance of Roman civilization and culture? Since then we have had Pitt and the makers of Liberalism and Conservatism. The heritage of Augustus has increased in riches and glory, but the Huns have crossed the Rhine!

Our welfare is bound up in the successful prosecution of the war, and the demands of the war have stimulated an interest in every phase of domestic life never before felt by any Government.

GERMANY BEATEN, AND KNOWS IT.

War, long continued, has a most depressing effect upon the population of the countries involved. It was mainly owing to war-weariness, cleverly worked upon by German cupidity, that resulted in the debacle in which Russia now finds herself. This same war-weariness is affecting the workers in England, and is causing the people of Canada to take a rather gloomy view of the future. Articles calculated to awaken the people of this country to a realization of all that is demanded of them have also a tendency to spread alarm and sow the seeds of pessimism.

To the faint-hearted and those who can see only gloom in present day conditions, we would heartily recommend the careful reading of an article published in another column of to-day's paper from the pen of Robert Blackford, and which first appeared in the Sunday Chronicle of Manchester, Eng. It strikes a high note of optimism. It discounts the claims of the Germans as being supermen. It points out that the Germans will never again have such a chance as they had at Ypres, where they failed to break the line, though they had six men to one. Germany realized after the battle of the Marne that she was beaten, but she is holding out solely with the hope that the Allies will tire and that she may be able to beguile them into a foolish peace.

Eliminating Russia altogether, Blackford figures that the Central Powers have a population of 142 millions and the Allies 141 millions. At this point in the fourth year of the war, when all combatants are more or less war-weary, there comes upon the scene the United States, with untold and untouched wealth, with no war-weariness, and with a population of 100 millions. In the light of these facts he asks the question, Can we possibly lose? The danger is passed as far as an armed defeat is concerned. The only danger that remains is from class or party dissensions that may paralyze our efforts and drive the Government into a hasty and inconclusive peace. It is only necessary

to "stick out" in order to beat the enemy, and the enemy knows it.

THE ADVENT OF JAPAN.

Japan, possibly acting on the request of her Allies, has decided to take a more active part in the land operations against the Central Powers. She will send her armed forces into Siberia to drive back the advancing German hordes and save Russia from herself. This is a line of action which the Whig long ago advocated. To quote from our issue of May 12th, 1917: "In the Monetary Times annual for 1917 John Stuart Thomson comes out, urging that Japan's army of over a million men be brought into the war at once, so as to maintain Russia as a combatant, and to save the lives of hundreds of British, French and Canadian boys. In other words, that Japan, which will enjoy the economic fruits of victory, should spend some of the blood cost as well as the white nations. Stephen Pichon, France's foreign minister, and John Stuart Thomson are the two leading publicists who recommended Japan being brought in; and Baron Sakata, mayor of Tokio, has come out in agreement."

Continuing this subject, the Whig on Oct. 27th last said: "Mr. Thomson has advocated quite a few new policies and has presented them with vigor through the medium of the American, Canadian and European periodicals. Since 1914 he has continually advocated using Japan's army in Europe, so as to flank the Germans and make the west lines thin enough for us to break through and drive the Teuton back to the Rhine."

The fiasco cliques think an Orientalist is the last person who should be consulted on Oriental matters.

This late acquiescence of the obstructionist press of the fiasco cliques (Lloyd-George at Rapallo, Italy, said: "Allied strategy has been one long line of fiascos") is proof that we were right on this subject.

But the strangest thing in the world is that politicians in trench their incompetence; and they are the only class in the world who do not suffer for their terrible failures in judgment—failures that ruin nations and epochs. In business, literature, army, navy, education, medicine, in almost all fields of responsibility, people who fail in judgment pay the penalty. Where politicians are not responsible, there is either tyranny or anarchy, as in Germany or Russia.

THE RETAIL GROCER.

The recent regulations governing the licensing of retail businesses did not include grocery stores, and accordingly the grocers, as noted in the Whig on Saturday, were in a quandary as to whether they were exempt

entirely, or whether they would be required to take out separate licenses, covering the various lines of foods they carried and which would be subject to the new legislation in case they specialized in any one product, such as fish, fruit, flour and feed, meat, etc. No longer need they speculate or worry. An order has been issued by the chairman of the Canada Food Board bringing the retail grocers under license. The regulations in regard to this trade are similar to those covering the licensing of other retail dealers, except that the last day for licensing of retail grocers has been fixed at May 1st, while the other trades will not be under license until May 15th. The cost of the license will be \$2 on a turnover of \$20,000 or less per annum, and an additional \$2 for every additional turnover of \$20,000 or fraction thereof. Over 22,000 grocers in Canada will be effected by the new regulations. Thus the grocer, after all, is not going to be discriminated against by the authorities. He is given the same chance to contribute and to come under regulation as his fellows in other lines of business. Moreover, he is restrained in the matter of unduly increasing prices or of wasting food.

The retail grocer fills a very useful and important place in the life of every community. He works long hours and very seldom does his labor permit him to lay up treasures on earth. His telephone is more for the use of his neighbors than for himself, and he deems he is fortunate if it is not used to order goods from some down-town store. If his supply of postage stamps runs out, he becomes an object of abuse. If he increases prices in an endeavor to keep up with the wholesaler, he is regarded as a robber and a highwayman. Though his lot is cast in unpleasant places, he is usually found to be an agreeable and obliging fellow. Perhaps the new regulations may help to put his business on a better basis.

Too Busy For Peace Talk.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, worthily represents the thousands of patriotic artisans in khaki. Asked by German unionists to attend a conference to talk peace, Mr. Gompers were busy at the task of defeating the Kaiser, and did not want to parley till their job was done. That spirit is worth more to democracy than the Socialism that delivered Russia into the hands of the enemy autocrat.

The Kaiser's Slip.

Kaiser Bill says we can have peace if we admit that Germany has been victorious. If Germany was really victorious an admission would be necessary; victory on the battlefield is not a matter to be settled by debate.

Rippling Rhymes

WAR'S LESSONS We're learning something every day, of how to sidestep wanton waste; we drink less milk, we smoke less hay, we husband hair oil, salve and paste. Our lives have been one grand sweet song, we've thrown our money to the cow; it's something we've needed long, the lesson we are learning now, I used to throw my shoes away, when they were frayed around the soles, but now I wear them till they're gray, and the cobbler patch the holes. I used to can my Sunday pants, when they grew baggy at the knees, but now my two old maiden aunts are pressing for me duds like these. And people in adjacent flats like me, would save the hard-earned bucks; they're wearing prehistoric hats, and buying soupbones more than town were mine; but now it is my frequent boast that I eat liver when I dine. In former times my wife retakes in washing by the day. By saving here and saving there, by trimming where expenses are, I always have ten cents to spare, to buy myself a good cigar.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN By GENE BYRNES



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FOOTWEAR Bargains Women's Black Kid Shoes with white calf tops. Regular price, \$10.00, now \$6.79. Patent and gun metal button shoes; regular price \$6.00, now \$3.49. Patent and gun metal shoes, odd lots, regular price \$5.00, now \$2.49. Men's mahogany tan boots, with neolin soles; regular price \$8.00; now \$5.79. Black calf shoes, new English lasts; regular price \$7.00, for \$5.49. Black calf and tan leather shoes; values up to \$7.00, now \$4.25. J.H. Sutherland & Bro. The Home of Good Shoes. All Superfluous. (Montreal Gazette) There are four individuals who go the length of insisting that tea, coffee and cocoa are stimulants to be avoided only less than alcoholic beverages. There are sects which place the ban on all three, and there is a big and influential Boston newspaper which refuses to publish advertisements of tea and coffee, regarding the two as insidious adulterants of the whiskey and tobacco class.

Our Own Special Blend and our Club Blend at 40c per lb. Compare this with the high priced package teas, and buy while the stock lasts. Jas. REDDEN & Co. Phones 20 and 990. WATCH YOUR FURNACE. ECONOMIZE IN COAL DO NOT WASTE CRAWFORD Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.