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# Briefly Told

"The railroad strike of Britain was a symptom of diseased and disintegrating social life. So far as England and Europe are concerned, they are living in the last hours of a fading civilization. The handwriting is upon the wall, and the old order of life changes."—Unity's English Letter.

Halide Edib, the Turkish woman writer, says that with the exception of two movements in her country, all the proposals now being made there are selfish interests fed by foreign money.

New York capital has been enlisted to mine 108 acres of Georgia mica land.

Fifty thousand photographs a second can be taken by an invention described before the French Academy of Sciences. The previous record was 2,000 a second.

A new national forest reserve, comprising 1,116,000 acres, has been set aside in Idaho.

On a "rat day drive" several hundred thousand rats were killed in Indiana.

Canada's population of 8,000,000 people have subscribed \$2,300,000,000 to the six Victory Loans since the war's outbreak.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson requested that the fund of \$1,200 raised for him, when he lost an eye as a result of being hazed by London students, be given to St. Dunstan's Hostel for the Blind.

British girls coming to Canada to work in homes call themselves "household workers" in preference to "domestic servants."

Half a million cats were used by the British armies during the war. The felines were invaluable as gas detectors. In their spare time they waged war on trench rats.

The complete success achieved by Henry L. Higginson with the Boston Symphony Orchestra is attributed to his refusal to meddle with the leaders. He provided the means and allowed trained men to do the rest.

Railway casualties in the United States during 1918 aggregated 183,861. A complete list of industrial casualties would look like a war.

That "the devil has no happy old men" was illustrated by the arrest in Detroit of a confirmed pick-pocket aged 81.

"Even now, a year after the armistice, the hardships endured in Lille are beyond imagination," writes Philip Gibbs, the famous war correspondent.

Gen. Ludendorff consistently continues to blame the German people for defeat in the war. As to the future he says: "Before the German people will be in a humour to be led they will have to suffer more and more. The men are receiving too much money for the work they do."

One pair of rats may have a family tree of 880 descendants in a single year. London has been campaigning against rats.

China will have a population of one billion people before the close of the present century, according to estimates published there.

Premier Hon. W. A. Holman, of New South Wales, Australia, has introduced a measure for the regulation of wages so that the married man shall receive higher rates of pay than the single man, and men with children more than either.

The invention of an attachment which will permit wireless messages being sent by merely operating a typewriter, has been completed by an American.

"Prepare for war and you get war," says General Sir Frederick Maurice, former Director of Military Operations of Britain. The only sphere which is at all possible for Britain and the United States to carry out any reductions of pre-war standards of armaments, is the naval.

Half of the toy products of the largest Japanese manufactory in Tokio have been purchased by a New York company.

Admiral Von Tirpitz reveals the true number of submarines on active service throughout the war as 333. No more than one hundred and fifty were assigned to the submarine zone at one time.

The Northern timber line is slowly creeping southward, according to scientists of the Canadian National Survey. The latitude which allowed young saplings to take root fifty years ago now fails to give them sustenance, and that millions of trees, that mark the timber line of today, will never reproduce their species.

A trout, having two heads, was hatched at a Minnesota fish reserve. It has now grown to the length of three inches, and continues to thrive like a normal fish.

Because heating apparatus has been placed in the shed where the kaiser will do his winter sawing of wood, the villagers of Amerongen have protested, fuel being very scarce.

Potash, heretofore a German monopoly, will be produced in France in sufficient quantities to supply the requirements of the United States for the coming spring.

Japan has doubled the number of her voters by laws which decrease the property qualifications, and by changing the voting age from twenty-five to twenty-one.

Fifteen million women received money for their services during the war.

Illiteracy costs Canada sixty million dollars a year in lowered production, according to the National Educational Conference recently held in Winnipeg.

Of the 10,245 American girls who served as nurses overseas during the war, 266 died.

Business men in China have two names, one for business purposes, the other for private life.

Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, who has spent 32 years as a soldier of humanity in Labrador, says that the natives of Labrador are very superstitious, but possess many lovable traits.

In Labrador the greatest adventure every year is the seal hunt. Sealing ships fight their way through ice floes and icebergs and run the Labrador banks in their perilous quest.

Java employs the most primitive methods of rice cultivation yet in existence. The rice stems are cut, one by one, with a sharp knife, and are stacked in small bundles to dry.

A schoolhouse a day has been built in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada, since its founding in 1905.

The Chinese city of Chan-Chan-Foo is said to produce the finest leather goods in the world. The leather is made from shark, dolphin and lizard skins.

Not one Canadian troopship was sunk by a submarine during the entire war, and Canada sent 500,000 men overseas.

Indians of the Timagami district of Northern Ontario frequently make from \$3,000 to \$4,000 by a winter's trapping of beaver, mink and other small animals. Beaver skins are worth from \$20 to \$30 this season. The supply of fur-bearing animals in regions where protective laws are enforced has greatly increased.

Buffalo received its largest cargo of oats in its navigation history when a lake steamer, docked Dec. 10 with 622,000 bushels.

The Pope possesses the most expensive timepiece in the world. It is expensively jeweled and estimated to be valued at \$300,000.

Thieves broke into a book store in Toronto, Canada, and stole 20 copies of the Bible.

Olive oil is being imported from Spain in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of this country, for the first time since the war commenced.

Because of the scarcity and high cost of beef in Havana, the natives have killed great numbers of horses, donkeys and mules. Punishment has been inflicted upon many for slaughtering horses, with a result that a petition has been presented, requesting permission to establish a slaughter-house for horses, in order to aid in lowering the cost of living.

A goldfish was kept alive for three years in total darkness by a scientist, experimenting on the fish's eye. The result was total blindness, and sight was never regained.

Two-thirds of the estate of Lord Plymouth in East Worcestershire, England, was purchased by his tenants. Most of the estates being sold by various lords and dukes throughout England are being purchased by the tenants.

Belgium is rapidly recovering from its four years of demoralization, reports the Belgian Commerce Committee stating that the nation is now producing 86 per cent of its pre-war manufactures.

Although the industries of this country were seriously crippled and men thrown out of work during the coal strike, Canada, that depends on the United States for fuel, was compelled to neither partially suspend industrial work, nor conserve in any manner.

Water power developments are rapidly advancing in Australia. The Murray River, an important stream, is being dammed to retain 1,000,000 acre feet of water. (An acre foot of water would cover an acre of ground with one foot of water, or 43,560 cubic feet.)

The Union of Mine Workers of Germany has increased since the outbreak of the war, from one hundred thousand to four hundred thousand.

Ten thousand women in Cincinnati factories are retaining jobs that were held previously by men.

The United States faces a housing situation with a shortage of homes equal to the needs of 4,000,000 people.

Morocco has enacted laws making public property, all rivers, lakes and bodies of water, even when situated on private estates.

Light German ships are to be divided among the smaller powers for coast defense purposes. The integrity of the smaller powers is recognized, but defense, apparently, is deemed essential.

President Wilson: "The establishment of the principles laid down in the League of Nations Covenant offers us the way to industrial peace. Not to pursue this is to invite enmities, bitterness, and antagonisms, which in the end will only lead to social and industrial disaster. The unwilling workman is not a profitable servant. An employe whose industrial life is hedged about by hard and unjust conditions lacks that fine spirit of enthusiasm and volunteer effort which are necessary ingredients of a great producing entity. Let us be frank about this solemn matter. Labor must not be longer treated as a commodity. The business man gives his best thought to the repair and replenishment of his machinery. No less regard ought to be paid to the human machine which after all propels the machinery of the world. Return to the old standards of wage and industry in employment is unthinkable. Europe made Labor the differential, and the price of it all is enmity and antagonism and prostrated industry. No government worthy of the name can 'play' these elements against each other for there is a mutuality of interest between them."

Enormous quantities of German manufactured goods are being received in England without the "Made in Germany" stamp.

The largest motion picture theater in the world is said to be in New York. It has a seating capacity of 5,300.

The Canadian Marine Fisheries report that the value of seafish caught off the Atlantic coast during October dropped nearly \$100,000 less than in the same month last year. The decrease was due to the marked scarcity of salmon and sardines. The annual October catch is greater than any month during the year, and sometimes fish valued at five million dollars are taken.

Fifty-five per cent of the women employed in France in war work, have returned to the home.

Lloyd George has made a statement in which he says that the thought of prohibition for England had never entered his mind until the United States went "dry." Since that time he has watched the experiment "sympathetically" and "with an open mind."

Clemenceau, in a sharp note to the German Government, warns it that it will be the principal sufferer from any delay in fulfilling peace pledges.

In every letter received in Canada from the Prince of Wales since his arrival home, he speaks of "my next visit."

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