

Brother or Brute?

The following dispatch is from Berlin, under date of May 5:

"Any American in Berlin during the last week or so has seen two sides to the question as to whether or not Germany can pay the reparations demanded.

"He has seen those who can't pay; and he has seen those who can.

"On the eve of May day he might have seen Germany's war profiteers crowding into the great hotels, arrayed in costly clothing and sparkling with jewelry, eating such delicacies as hothouse peaches and guzzling champagne.

"These are the men and women who have fattened on war and war's miseries; they have profited in everything from cannon to food; and they have the money.

"These had hardly scattered to their homes when the thousands of men and women, bringing their children, swarmed from the capital's poor districts to hold a May day demonstration in the Lustgarten.

"They carried red banners. They clustered on balconies of the ex-kaiser's palace. They congregated on the steps of the great cathedral. They banked a choir of 500 male voices on the portico of the art museum.

"It was purely a workmen's demonstration. The red was not of Communism, Spartacism or Bolshevism, but of Social Democrats.

"The government had taken precautions against disorders. On all streets leading to the Lustgarten green-uniformed police were stationed with rifles slung over shoulders. One sensed in nearby buildings more police with machine guns.

"In contrast with the fat, red-blooded profiteers of the night before, one saw white-faced workmen's wives shepherding pathetic hundreds of workmen's pale, spindle-shanked children.

"The youngsters carried wreaths of paper roses mixed with green branches and banners demanding 'Schools for all, with equal opportunities for all.' They also bore other banners denouncing child labor.

"The adults carried banners that screamed, 'No more 1914,' 'No more wars.'

"This May day demonstration was in a sense an answer to the monarchical pomp the old ruling class displayed at the funeral of the late empress. It was the common people's defiance to those who never cease working and hoping for the restoration of kaiserism with its plunder and privilege."

The above cablegram represents a situation which finds its counterpart in every land—the contrast is less striking in the United States than elsewhere, but even here we see the profiteer revelling with ill-gotten gains, and the needy. The question, Brother or Brute?, is a pressing one everywhere. Shall man deal with his fellow man from the standpoint of a brother or from the standpoint of a brute? W. J. BRYAN.

A careful study of the various demands made by the allies upon the Germans in the way of an indemnity would seem to indicate that one profitable use has been made of the experience secured by the war profiteers, namely that of being able to guess pretty closely to how much money the other fellow has before fixing the price.

ALIENATION OF AFFECTIONS

Alienation of affections is one of the most serious of crimes and yet it is, in most cases, a wrong without a remedy. The injured party is left to a civil suit for damages which means nothing unless the defendant is rich and then it often has the appearance of blackmail rather than an honest attempt to secure redress. If the home is the unit of society an invasion of it is a crime against the public as well as an offense against the injured husband or wife and should be punished as such. Anyone, man or woman, who destroys a home and separates either husband or wife from the other should be dealt with as a public enemy and the punishment should be sufficient to deter those amorously inclined. Murder and then suicide are frequently the sequel to these departures from virtue—criminal law should furnish an adequate remedy. On another page will be found a Tribune editorial on this subject. W. J. BRYAN.

A TIME FOR ACTION

The masses must be on the alert—the reactionaries are at work. The pressing problems now before the country for solution will not be settled right if the common people fail to look after their interests. The special interests are always at work, and every advantage they secure will be wrung from the masses of the people.

The Commoner has in several issues presented a National Legislative Program which is intended to bring about world peace, curb the profiteer, prevent extravagance and waste in governmental affairs, and to restore the people's rule. The purpose of this program, which will be found on another page, is to present a set of principles around which the masses of the people can rally in an effort to protect their interests and rights. It has met with nationwide approval. The Commoner desires to hear immediately from everyone who approves this legislative program, and will assist in crystallizing public opinion to write it into the law of the land.

A NATIONAL PRIMARY NEEDED

The following news item indicates that Senator Johnson will attempt to cure Newberryism by amending the constitution.

"Washington, May 9.—Senator Johnson, Republican, of California, today introduced a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to give congress authority to regulate state primaries. It is designed to meet the situation arising from the decision of the supreme court in the Newberry case—that congress was without power to regulate primaries.

"Senator Newberry returned today to his seat in the senate following annulment by the supreme court of his conviction in Michigan of violation of the federal corrupt practices act. He had been absent about one and one-half years."

That will be difficult if not impossible. What we need is a national primary law fixing a day and prescribing the conditions, except where the states have primaries on that day, and regulate them in accordance with the national law. No need to interfere with the states where they will protect the nominations. But there should be a national primary. It is unfortunate that the supreme court should have freed Newberry. If there were errors he should have been given a new trial as four of the justices asked.

W. J. BRYAN.

CLEANING UP BASEBALL

Judge Landis is making himself decidedly unpopular with a certain following of baseball. He will invoke the law to prohibit gambling in the grandstands and bleachers. He may go further and ask every town and city government to stop betting on baseball games.

Gambling, or betting, became so prevalent in the grandstands and bleachers in several cities that true lovers of the game were so disgusted that they quit going to the parks. Friends and relatives of the players seemed to be the leaders of the betting. This naturally caused suspicion. In some cities owners of stock in the clubs were among the heaviest bettors.

Year before last it was a common thing in almost every village and town in the country for pools to be made on the games. In one rural community in southern Ohio the telephone system was completely monopolized for an hour after the games in carrying scores to the groups of pool players out on the farms. There was a let-up last year due to lack of confidence in the games.

Before Judge Landis succeeds in purifying baseball he will have to obtain strict enforcement of the gambling laws throughout the nation. Just so long as any considerable sum of money is bet on the games, that long will the danger exist of players being influenced. Ball players are human.—Miami, Fla., Herald.

The fact that every fellow who has been paying an excess profits tax to the government is in favor of the repeal of the law levying it should be somewhat decisive of the argument as to whether this is a kind of tax that can be passed on to the consumer.

The Split Begins

Read the following dispatch from Washington:

"Washington, April 30.—Holding a solid front against a Republican split, Democrats forced through the House Saturday an amendment to the army appropriation bill cutting down the enlisted force to 150,000 men. The Kahn proposal for a bigger force never got to a vote.

"The bill as approved by Secretary Weeks made provision for 168,000 men or 12,000 more than the number fixed by the measure last session and vetoed.

"There was no certainty, however, that the 150,000 figure would stand, for the vote Saturday was in committee of the whole and the house may demand a separate vote on the amendments in passing the bill next week.

"The amendment for reduction of the enlisted strength to 150,000, the lowest figure suggested in the long debate, was offered by Representative Byrnes, Democrat, South Carolina. Only two Democrats opposed it and many Republicans gave it their support. The vote was 109 to 82.

"The House previously had adopted as a substitute for the Kahn proposal an amendment by Representative Fish, Republican, New York, for an army of 156,000, but the Byrnes amendment went through and wiped it out.

"Representative Mondell, Wyoming, the Republican leader, in closing debate urged Republicans to stand by the bill as framed by the appropriations committee with its enlisted total of 168,000 but many members of his party deserted him as the march was started down the aisle for an actual count.

"Chairman Kahn of the military affairs committee pleaded for at least 175,000 men, declaring the times too troublous for wholesale slashing of forces. Representative Wood, Republican, Indiana, taking issue with the Californian, insisted that if the world was on the verge of a fire a few thousand extra men could not put it out."

The Democrats took the people's side on the army question and secured enough Republicans to defeat the Republican leaders in the House and the Republican secretary of war. The split begins. If the Democrats will continue to take the people's side and STAND FIRM, the split will continue. A split on taxation will come next.

W. J. BRYAN.

FAITH

(By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.)

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken mast and
sails;

I shall believe the Hand which never fails
From seeming evil worketh good for me;
And though I weep because those sails are
battered,

Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie
shattered,
"I trust in Thee!"

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still, white realm above;
I shall believe it is an all-wise Love
Which has refused those things for which I
yearn;

And though at times I cannot keep from griev-
ing,
Yet, the pure ardor of my fixed believing,
Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive;
I shall believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I groan and tremble with my
crosses,

I yet shall see, through my severest losses,
The greater gain.

I will not doubt; well anchored in the faith,
Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every
gale,

So strong its courage that it will not fail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of Death.
Oh, may I cry when body parts with spirit,
"I do not doubt!" so listening worlds may
hear it,

With my last breath.