NEGLECTED SOLDIERS

IN HANDLING millions of cases some error will creep in, some injustice, some things that would be better otherwise. The test of any machine, or institution, is not the matters in which it falls short of perfection. Does the machine function? Does it give better results than similar machines give? This is the test by which human contrivance must be judged.

It is as easy as it is unworthy to select those few cases in which soldiers have been returned somewhat unprepared to civil life, as proof of serious failure in the mechanism by which the armies of the United States have been raised and are being dismissed.

In some of these cases, only a few of which are offered, real injustice no doubt exists. Other cases need investigation, before the amount of injustice may be known.

Much failure of discharged men to connect with their pay at the moment of discharge is their anxiety to return to civil life, and to their friends; a reasonable anxiety, which leads them to demand discharge from camp, then and there, regardless of the circumstance that arrangements for their pay are not at the time made.

If these soldiers, in the instant of their home coming, are made the objects of home solicitude, as they should be, they will not suffer by their haste in returning. They will be justified in their opinion that home is the best place.

The Federal government left undone, no doubt, many things which should have been done, and did other things that were better undone. But in the whole, no army ever was so well handled and so well treated as the army Uncle Sam raised.

Let Connecticut and the other states, Bridgeport and the other towns, be zealous in desire to treat the soldiers well; less critical of the defects in the great national organization, which to atone for its weak spots, had merit without end.

The soldiers will not be grateful to the little minded people who disparage his government and his commanders.

IT'S BURLESON NOW

AT THE OPENING of the war newspapers, like The New York Sun, were quite sure that the most incompetent man in the United States was Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy. Time healed this unfounded opinion. Mr. Daniels acquired, even in the Sun office, the reputation for accomplishment and competence.

The experts in incompetence discovered then that Secretary Baker was the fellow they meant. They were in the right church, when they picked Daniels, but in the wrong pew. Baker was the stupidest man. In the course of time Baker got a great army into France, the war ended, and Baker began to get his troops out again, performing both operations with dexterity, talent and speed. Baker was voted a real fellow.

There was no discouragement in the editorial rooms of The Sun. It picked the president, as the third choice for the medal for all around stupidity. In Europe the nations of the earth, and the leaders of those nations, hailed the American President with admiration and fervor, and The Sun and the other experts in stupidity were compelled to try again.

Burleson is the last to be honored with the same kind attentions that were showered upon Daniels, Baker and Woodrow Wilson.

The old charges are dragged out of their editorial graves to be directed against him. How long will it be before those who have been thrice wrong, will admit the fourth error?

There are inefficient men in the world. Some of them, no doubt, are associated with the government. Draw cards often enough and the deuce will come. Some day, sometime, The Sun is bound to find a really inefficient Federal officer, if it keeps on. But will it? Discouraged by repeated failures it may now pick four incompetents and hold them up to the world as marvels of official intelligence.

THE BRITISH PLAN.

THE BRITISH plan for a league of nations while simple enough in statement, and exceedingly simple as a piece of mechanism, represents, as any such contrivance must, far flung consequences, the end of which no prophet can foretell.

There is agreement not to interefere with the territorial integrity of other states, nor to permit such interference; which in itself removes a sweeping occasion for war, and takes from each state something of its sovereignty, to fund it into the league.

The league would assist new states, would maintain freedom of transit and just commercial relations between its members. Here is the means of removing yet other causes of war.

The plan includes provision for the control of munitions manufacture, for coordination in economics and sanitation and for agreements as to the best use of labor, the latter question being deemed so important that the British would confide it to a special committee.

The indisposition of nations to yield entirely their claim to have sole decision in certain cases is met by dividing differences into two groups, those which may go to the international court, and those which shall not go there, and each state is made the judge of which cases shall be tried and which not.

The important fact is, that neither species of dispute will avoid a council of the nations. For disputes which may be adjudicated an international court is suggested. For those which may not be adjudicated, a conference of the league is suggested.

Every nation may be admitted to the league, Germany afterward, and permanent representatives would be created and there would be permanent quarters, an international capital, perhaps, in some convenient place.

The Federation of American colonies, which preceded the United States, was an organization scarcely more substantial than a league would be, such as the British offer to the peace table.

Difficult would it be to leave out of the scheme of the league anything that has been put in. There must be means of transit between nation and nation; inland countries must not be kept back from the sea. Europe is territory in which raw materials are scattered, so that one nation has often none of the raw materials necessary to modern production. There must be means for assuring the supply of these things, with justice to all.

America could not exist under a system by which coal in some states would cease to be supplied to others.

Questions of labor are most important. Many inequalities arise on the seas and elsewhere, between peoples of high and low standards, who attempt to compete with each other at the expense of flesh and blood. The world also must guarantee certain minimum conditions to those who work.

The international control of sanitation while one of the [illegible] features of the agreement in the respect of promoting peace, is one of the greatest in respect to promoting health comfort and happiness. How shall a world scourge like influenza be restrained, controlled, kept where it begins and there stamped out, unless there is the most complete coooperation between people and people?

The British plan may or may not be the precise plan adopted, but it is a beginning. It inaugurates a system into which each state, nation, people will perpetually fund more authority, just as the several states of the United States for their greater comfort and happiness have funded more authority in the Federal government, since the constitution was adopted.

PROBLEMS OF A CREDITOR NATION

GEORGE E. ROBERTS, who has the title assistant to the president, The National City Bank of New York, delivered an address before the Investment Bankers Association of America, under the dsignation, "A Creditor Country." The address is reproduced, and laid upon the desk of The Times-Farmer. The contents are calculated to make an old fashioned high tariff devotee, like the late E. J. Hill, turn over in his grave. But the truth of the things stated is within purview of the least informed upon economic matters. Mr. Roberts is a banker who has escaped from the thralldom of conventional finance. He has at least grasped the rudiments of the economic and financial changes made necssary by America's state of being a creditor nation.

Through loans that have been made to foreign nations, or that soon will be made, the United States has an interest charged against Europe of approximately $500,000,000 a year. Says Mr. Roberts:—

> Now we know, to begin with, that these interest charges will not be settled in gold, because the total production of gold in the world outside of the United States is less than $400,000,000 per year. And, even if these governments were able to relinquish from their present holdings sufficient gold to make a few payments, the effect of adding gold to our already large reserves would be to raise the level of prices in this country, and maintain prices here above those in the rest of the world, which would place us at a disadvantage with our competitors in world trade. It would make this the best country in the world to sell goods in, and the poorest country in the world to sell goods from. We couldn't afford to take their gold with such results.

That is to say the United States cannot and will not take its pay in gold. There isnt gold enough; if there were gold enough, it would be necessary to refuse it, because too much of that particular commodity in one place, would make the gold cheap.

But for the present Europe is in need, and goods must flow from the United States to European countries. For the present and for some time to come Europe will not be in a position to send many goods to this country. So reasons Mr. Roberts.

Which means, reasoning of The Times-Farmer, that the trade balance in favor of the United States must be much greater, before it is smaller, in which case the ultimate annual interest payments from Europe must be much larger.

If America is to be paid, and cannot take gold, America must take goods.

Mr. Roberts proposes an alternative. This country will take neither goods nor gold. It will run a charge account with Europe. It will put its principal into the European countries and the interest there also.

The United States and American investors would instead invest in European enterprise. This, then, is Mr. Roberts proposal to meet present conditions. Again The Times-Farmer reasons.

But the remedy would not in the end alter the original necessity. Repayment could not come in gold, it would have to come in goods, and these goods would represent an excess of European imports over American exports, a vast excess. Thus would the United States come to a condition when its exports would be enormously greater than its imports, the condition which economists of the Hill type always declared abhorrent; for the effect of a high tariff, and its very purpose is to keep European goods out of the United States.

The consequence of being a creditor nation is, that European goods cannot be kept out, unless the debt is to be forgiven.

Europe must pay in goods, or not at all. The longer the payments are delayed, and the greater the charge, the more European goods will be required to settle the account.

There is nothing mysterious about international trade. It operates much like individual trade, in the main factors. The creditor gets the other fellow's goods, as long as they last, or until the debt is forgiven.

It will be interesting, a little later, when the horde of old fashioned high tariff orators begin to reconcile the necessities of Uncle Sam, international creditor, with the tenets they formerly held; when they begin to explain the consequences that must follow upon an influx of European goods, shipped to the United States, decade after decade to meet dividend and interest payments due American investors in European industries.

FUTURE OF IMMIGRATION

REPRESENTATIVE ROYAL JOHNSTON, of South Dakota, has introduced a bill forbidding immigration into the United States for a period of four years. Mr. Johnston has returned from foreign service. He was a lieutenant in the army. It is his opinion that many German soldiers intend to come to America, and that the poorer people of Europe have been so impressed with the prosperity of the American soldier, and with stories of the great wealth of the United States that they desire to come here also.

There is another view which hitherto has seemed to The Times-Farmer probably adequate, which holds that there will be a large exodus from the United States of foreign born persons who wish to return to the lands of their nativity.

These persons are under no delusions. They know that to live a man must work, in America as elsewhere.

There are thousands of small properties in Europe, thousands of families bereft of heads, so that the interest of foreigners in this country is often direct. There are special matters to take them home. Over and above direct interest is the opinion many foreigners seem to hold, that the European countries, now that they are democracies, hold many opportunities.

Russia especially is regarded as a land of opportunity.

The two theories have their separate values. Only experience can prove which is the soundest. Doubtless there will be travel in both direction. Which will receive the largest number of persons, Europe, or the United States, remains to be seen.

ITALIAN MISSION IN BOSTON.

Boston, Jan. 28—The mission from the redeemed provinces of Italy here to further "Italy's rightful demands," today paid official calls and made a tour of the city's parks and public institutions. Headed by Colonel Ugo Pizzarello, members of the mission, called on Rear Admiral Spencer S. Wood, commanding the First naval district, and on Major General Clarence R. Edwards, commander of the Northeast department, and then visited Harvard University.

ARRESTED AFTER "MINUTE STRIKE"

Paris, Jan. 28 — Following the "minute strike" on the Paris, Lyons & Mediterranean Railway on Saturday, Leon Midol, secretary of the Paris, Lyons & Mediterranean union, was arrested, the railroad still being operated by the military authorities. He will be court-martialed. An account of the incident published in the Matin says other arrests are imminent.

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT CONFERENCE, ADVOCATING LEAGUE

Following is President Wilson's address before the Peace conference today:

"Mr. Chairman: I consider it a distinguished privilege to be permitted to open the discussion in this conference on the League of Nations. We have assembled for two purposes, to make the present settlements which have been rendered necessary by this war, **and also to secure the peace of the world, not only by the present settlement, but by the arrangements we shall make at this conference for its maintenance.**

"The League of Nations seems to me to be necessary for both of these purposes. There are many complicated questions connected with the present settlements, which perhaps cannot be successfully worked out to an ultimate issue by the decisions we shall arrive at here. I can easily conceive that many of these settlements will need subsequent consideration; that many of the decisions we make shall need subsequent alteration in some degree, for if I judge by my own study of some of these questions they are not susceptible for confident judgments at present.

"It is therefore necessary that we should set up some machinery by which the work of this conference should be rendered complete.

"We have assembled here for the purpose of doing very much more than making the present settlements that are necessary. We are assembled under very peculiar conditions of world opinion. I may say, without straining the point, **that we are not the representatives of governments, but representatives of the peoples.**

"It will not suffice to satisfy governmental circles anywhere. It is necessary that we should satisfy the opinion of mankind.

"The burdens of this war have fallen in an unusual degree upon the whole population of the countries involved. I do not need to draw for you the picture of how the burden has been thrown back from the front upon the homes of the civilized world, and how the real strain of the war has come where the eye of the government could not reach, but where the heart of humanity beats.

"We are bidden by these people to make a peace which will make them secure. We are bidden by these people to see to it that this strain does not come upon them again. And I venture to say that it has been possible for them to bear this strain because they hoped that those who represented them could get together after this war and make such another sacrifice unnecessary.

"It is a solemn obligation on our part, therefore to make permanent arrangements that justice shall be rendered and peace maintained.

"This is the central object of our meeting. Settlements may be temporary, **but the action of the nations in the interest of peace and just must be permanent.** We can set up permanent processes. We may not be able to set up a permanent decision.

"Therefore, it seems to me that we must take as far as we can a picture of the world into our minds. Is it not a startling circumstance, for one thing, that the great discoveries of science, that the quiet studies of men in laboratories that the thoughtful developments which have taken place in quiet lecture rooms have now been turned to the destruction of civilization? The powers of destruction have not so much multiplied, as they have gained facilities.

"The enemy, whom we have just overcome, had at its seats of learning some of the principal centers of scientific study and discovery, and he used them in order to make destruction sudden and complete. And only the watchful and continuous operation of men can see to it that science, as well as armed men, is kept within the harness of civilization.

"In a sense the United States is less interested in this subject than the other nations here assembled.

"With her great territory and her extensive sea borders, it is less likely that the United States should suffer from the attack of enemies than that other nations should suffer. And the ardor of the United States—for it is a very deep and genuine ardor—for the society of nations is not an ardor springing out of fear or apprehension, but an ardor springing out of the ideals which have come in consciousness of this war.

"In coming into this war the United States never for a moment thought that she was intervening in the politics of Europe or the politics of Asia or the politics of any part of the world. Her thought was that all the world had now become conscious that there was a single cause of justice and of liberty for men of every kind and place.

"Therefore, the United States should feel that its part in this war should be played in vain if there ensued upon it abortive European settlements. It would feel that it could not take part in guaranteeing those European settlements unless that guarantee involved the continuous superintendence of the peace of the world by the associated nations of the world.

"Therefore it seems to me that we must concern our best judgement in order to make this League of Nations a vital thing—a thing sometimes called into life to meet an exigency—but always functioning in watchful attendance upon the interests of the nations, and that its continuity should be a vital continuity; that its functions are continuing functions, that do not permit an intermission of its watchfulness and of its labor; that it should be the eye of the nations, to keep watch upon the common interest—an eye that did not slumber, an eye that was everywhere watchful and attentive.

"And if we do not make it vital, what shall we do? We shall disappoint the expectations of the peoples. This is what their thought centers upon.

"I had the very delightful experience of visiting several nations since I came to this side of the water, and every time the voice of the body of the people reached me, through any representative, at the front of the plea stood the hope of the League of Nations.

"Gentlemen, the select classes of mankind are no longer the governors of mankind. The fortunes of mankind are now in the hands of the plain people of the world. Satisfy them and you have justified their confidence not only, but have established peace. Fail to satisfy them, and no arrangement that you can make will either set up or steady the peace of the world.

"You can imagine, I dare say, the sentiments and the purpose with which the representatives of the United States support this great project for a League of Nations. We regard it as the keynote of the whole, which expressed our purposes and ideals in this war and which the associated nations have accepted as the basis of a settlement.

"If we return to the United States without having made every effort in our power to realize this program, we should return to meet the merited scorn of our fellow citizens. For they are a body that constitute a great democracy. They expect their leaders to speak; their representatives to be their servants.

"We have no choice but to obey their mandate. But it is with the greatest enthusiasm and pleasure that we accept that mandate and because this is the keynote of the whole fabric, we have pledged our every purpose to it, as we have to every item of the fabric. We would not dare abate a single item of the program which constitutes our instructions; we would not dare to compromise upon any matter as the champion of this thing—this peace of the world, this attitude of justice, this principle that we are the masters of no peoples, but are here to see that every people in the world shall choose its own masters and govern its own destinies, not as we wish, but as they wish.

"We are here to see, in short, that the very foundations of this war are swept away. Those foundations were the private choice of a small coterie of civil rulers and military staffs. These foundations were the aggression of great powers upon the small. These foundations were the holding together of empires of unwilling subjects by the duress of arms. Those foundations were the power of small bodies of men to wield their will and use mankind as pawns in a game.

"And nothing less than the emancipation of the world from these things will accomplish peace.

"You can see that the representatives of the United States are, therefore, never put to the embarrassment of choosing a way of expediency, because they have had laid down before them the unalterable lines of principles. And, thank God, these lines have been accepted as the lines of settlements by all the high-minded men who have had to do with the beginning of this great business.

"I hope, Mr. Chairman, when it is known, as I feel confident it will be known, that we have adopted the principle of the League of Nations and mean to work out that principle in effective action, we shall by that single thing have lifted a great part of the load of anxiety from the hearts of men everywhere.

"We stand in a peculiar cause. As I go about the streets here I see everywhere the American uniform. Those men came into the war after we had uttered our purpose. They came as crusaders, not merely to win a war, but to win a cause. I am responsible to them, for it falls to me to formulate the purpose for which I asked them to fight, and I, like them, must be a crusader for these things, whatever it costs and whatever it may be necessary to do in honor to accomplish the object for which they fought.

"I have been glad to find from day to day that there is no question of our standing alone in this matter, for there are champions to this cause upon every mind. I am merely avowing this in order that you may understand why, perhaps, it fell to us, who are disengaged from the politics of this great continent and of the Orient, to suggest that this was the keystone of the arch, and why it occurred to the generous mind of our president to call upon me to open this debate. It is not because we alone represent this idea, but because it is our privilege to associate ourselves with you to representing it.

"I have only tried in what I have said to give you the fountains of the enthusiasm which is within us for this thing, for those fountains spring, it seems to me, from all the ancient wrongs and sympathies of mankind, and the very pulse of the world seems to beat to the fullest in this enterprise."

TARDIEU SAYS NO CENSORSHIP

Paris, Jan. 28—Captain Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States and a French delegate to the Peace conference, in his speech Monday at a luncheon to members of the foreign press repeated the pledge given by the French government that no censorship of foreign cables would be exercised by France and the promise that every reasonable facility would be given foreign newspapers during the conference. On the first point, according to the official report of the captain's speech his words were:

"After rapidity of transmission, your second need is freedom. This liberty which you have from the French point of view is total, absolute and unreserved. What you write will be transmitted just as you write it."

Brockton, Mass., Jan. 28—Anarchistic literature such as has been circulated in other parts of the country made its appearance here today.

200,000 STRIKE IN IRELAND AND UNITED KINGDOM

Half Strikers Are in Belfast Where Strike Movement is Spreading.

SHIP WORKERS OPPOSE ACTION

All Trouble Due to Demand For Shorter Hours With Same Wages.

London, Jan. 28—It is estimated that nearly 200,000 men and women are idle in the United Kingdom and Ireland because of strikes in various trades, creating one of the most serious situations industrially that the country has had to face in many years. Half of the strikers are in Belfast, where the strike movement is continuing to spread.

The city of Belfast by night is in virtually total darkness, the hospitals being the only places where lights can be shown without danger of attacks by strikers. Everywhere else the display of a light has caused either the stoning or the storming of the premises. In cases where such drastic action was not taken the people were forced by threats to screen their lights.

Fortunately last night was snowy and wet by turns; otherwise, it is considered, there might have been more trouble. This morning men in the various smaller industrial plants who had remained at work came out for safety's sake, the picketing having become more extensive. One of the morning newspapers was forced to suspend publication. The shipyard workers are opposed to the strike and are endeavoring to arrange a meeting for Wednesday.

There is no change in the situation on the Clyde, where 20,000 shipyard workers are out, nor in London where 15,000 ship repairers are striking and have refused an offer to refer the question of wages to a committee.

To these must be added 24,000 Fifeshire miners, 6,000 South Wales miners, 5,000 Edinburgh shipwrights, 4,000 Manchester dockers, 4,000 South Wales shipyard men and a number of Glasgow municipal workers.

Except in London, where the question is one of wages, all these strikes are due to a demand for shorter hours, with the same privileges and wages as prevailed when longer hours were worked.

"The strike is the most serious ever experienced in this city of strikes," the correspondent writes. "Belfast is like a dead city. Its entire social life is paralyzed, theatres and saloons are closed, tram cars are not running, bakeries and laundries are closing, and there were no afternoon papers today. Only two small editions of morning papers appeared yesterday.

Telegraphic and telephonic communication with outside districts is seriously handicapped. After sunset Belfast becomes a city of candles. Restaurants are closed and evening services cannot be held by the churches. Railway stations are lighted with Naptha lamps, but in their homes the people depend on candles. Should the candle supply fail there would be a plague of darkness.

"The main cause of the trouble lies in the fact that the workers in electric and gas plants have joined the shipyard workers in demanding a 40-hour week. Things are in such a state of chaos that a change must come soon. Grave diggers joined the strike on Monday."

Belfast, Jan. 28—Strikers attacked shops here last night, seeming to center their assaults on stores showing lights. One large store which generates its own electricity and was brilliantly illuminated was stoned by the mob. The plate glass show windows were smashed and women's clothing exhibited there was carried away. In another district a saloon was broken open and liquor was taken by members of a mob.

Police engaged in dispersing rioters were fired on but at last succeeded in restoring order.

STATE GAINS 10,985 SCHOOL CHILDREN

There was a gain of 10,985 in the school population of Connecticut in 1918 as compared with the preceding year, according to figures just given out for publication. New Haven led among the cities with a gain of 1,362, Waterbury came second with 1,167, Hartford third with 1,055 and Bridgeport fourth with 392. All four being munition cities, the comparisons may be found interesting. Every county showed a gain, New Haven county leading with 3,759, Hartford county coming second with 3,217, Fairfield county third with 2,327 and New London county fourth with 948. The enumeration for the state was 325,664 in 1918 and 314,679 the year before.

The ration of the whole population to that of school age in 1910 was as 4.485 is to 1. If this ratio still obtains the population of the state in September, 1918, was 1,460,603, an increase of 49,268 over September, 1917.

If this estimate is reasonably correct the population in 1920, when next census comes, will be 1,500,000 in round numbers. The population of the state in 1910 was 1,114,756. In 1920 there will have been a gain of 485,000 for the decade. This would indicate that the state is growing more rapidly than ever before in its history. In the decade from 1900 to 1910 the gain was about 266,000 and in the previous decade 162,000.

REDUCE RATES ON COTTON

Washington, Jan. 28—Southern senators announced after a conference with the Shipping board today that trans-Atlantic freight rates on cotton had been reduced from $22.50 to $6.25 a bale from Southern Atlantic ports and from $23.50 to $6.25 a bale from gulf ports, effective immediately.