

Persons Prominent Just Now

Lord William Randolph Munsey

"THE DRAMATIC MIRROR" is authority for the announcement that Mr. Munsey, envious of the profits which Mr. Hearst is understood to have made in his motion picture enterprises, is about to enter the motion picture field and add "moving dramas of flood and field" to his repertory.

In many quarters both Mr. Munsey and Mr. Hearst are credited with ambitions to become the Northcliffe of America. Thus, curiously, and in diverse ways, the names of these three men have been linked of late in popular comment. It is not recorded that Lord Northcliffe has aspirations in the direction of the movies, but journalism, at any rate, unites the destinies of the trio.

Frank Harris recently sketched them all into a single picture—very acridly. He said:

"There is only one man in America with whom to compare Lord Northcliffe as a newspaper proprietor, and that is Mr. William Randolph Hearst. I know little or nothing of Mr. Hearst's record. I have heard it said that he is distrusted by union workmen and is a foe to socialism; but I surely remember that he advocated nationalization of all railroads. There is a good deal of socialism in that proposal.

"The true person to compare with Lord Northcliffe in brains is Mr. Munsey. Both of these worthies are perfectly unconscious of their weakness, or, rather, they are both deluded by monetary success into believing themselves men of light and leading. The achievement of both men shows a curious similarity. Mr. Munsey, I believe, has been successful in hitting the popular taste in magazines, while notorious for ruining half a dozen daily newspapers. Lord Northcliffe, though a success in cheap journalism, has failed whenever he has appealed to the classes who read and think."

"The New Republic," noting the fact that "Englishmen are disturbed by Lord Northcliffe's absence," suggests that America ought to send over some one to take his place:

"We have nothing quite like Lord Northcliffe to offer, but let us give freely our least inferior substitute. He must be an owner of many newspapers, he must never be wrong about anything, his control of the English language must be more or less insecure. Such specifications point to a composite figure, a sort of William Randolph Munsey. If he does not exist, or declines to be exported, the best we can do is to set our ally an example of fortitude. The English will recover their missing serenity when they learn to take Lord Northcliffe's absence as easily as Americans are taking his presence."

America's Lagging Demand for Books

THE complete subordination of the newspaper and magazine world was demonstrated by Congressman Rainey, of Illinois, in his recent speech in Congress attacking the mail privileges of periodicals. He does not call Americans illiterate, but he does show that they are next to Spain in the smallness of their book output. We quote from "The Congressional Record":

To-day the only nation in the world that produces as few books per million population as does the United States is Spain. In Spain, instead of having cheap magazines to crowd out her literature, they have bookshops and bookstores that are as numerous and contributing just as much to her culture as these cheap publications, and she produces for each million of inhabitants as many books as we produce.

The figures I have given you are startling. Little Switzerland, one-eighteenth the size of Texas and one-twenty-fifth the size of the United States, publishes more than three-quarters as many books to-day a year as we do in the United States. Denmark, Sweden, Norway have each an output of eight times as many books per million of inhabitants as the United States. Rumania, with only one-thirteenth of the population of the United States, publishes each year one-quarter as many books as are published in the United States. Japan, with half our population, publishes four times as many books. Russia, which has an ignorant class comprising 79 per cent of her population, produces nearly three times as many books as the United States, and has a population only two-thirds greater.

America's movement commenced in this particular with the advent of 1-cent postage in the land. When this law went into effect, permitting cheap periodicals to be carried throughout the land, we had 4,000 bookstores in the United States, selling nothing but books. To-day we have less than 1,500 bookstores in the United States, and they are diminishing in number with each passing month.

Our Ambassador to England, Mr. Page, a member of the publishing firm of Doubleday, Page & Co., before he left for England made the statement that American men spend less money to-day for books than they do for neckties and that American women spend less money for books than they do for the buttons that go on their dresses.

Still Behind the Clyde

OUR recent shipbuilding activity is best measured by the Delaware boom, which, however, as "The Marine Journal" points out, is still behind the Clyde:

Construction on the Delaware to-day numbers some two hundred vessels, on the building of which about 20,000 men are employed. This condition is a direct result of the present shipbuilding boom, which, of course, will subside to a considerable extent as soon as the war is over.

Compared with the capacity of the present Delaware yards, the English firm of Armstrong, at Newcastle, alone employs more than 20,000 men, and the Harland & Wolff yard at Belfast employs some 17,000 men in normal times, while on the twenty-two miles of the Clyde River there are more men employed and more machinery in operation than in all the shipyards of the United States to-day. There is also more tonnage at present building on the Clyde River than on the Delaware.

Russia's Great General

THE most popular civilian in Russia is Kerensky. The most popular military officer is Brusiloff. A little more than a year ago he struck a blow at the Teutons that nearly put Austria out of the fighting

was chosen to be the right hand man of Sukhomlinoff, later made War Minister, and acquitted himself brilliantly. Soon afterward Brusiloff came into close touch with the elder Grand Duke Nicholas. The experience gained at this time, it is said, helped him lay the foundation for such



General Alexei Brusiloff
Photo by Underwood & Underwood

business. Last week General Brusiloff began the first offensive undertaken by the New Russia. Its initial successes were enthusiastically received in this and the Allied countries. General Brusiloff is again the man of the hour.

Who is this military genius? The story of his beginnings was told recently in "The Times" by Charles Johnston, whose wife is a sister-in-law to General Brusiloff:

"Born at Kutais, Alexei Alexievitch Brusiloff went to school in Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus; thence to one of the Russian military schools, where he greatly distinguished himself and laid the foundation of future staff appointments; thence once more to the wild, magnificent, semi-Oriental Caucasus as a lieutenant in the dragoon regiment which bears the name of Tver, an ancient town on the railroad between Moscow and Petrograd.

"As a subaltern Alexei Brusiloff entered thoroughly into the daring and adventurous life which was traditional with regiments quartered in the Caucasus, in the midst of some of the grandest scenery and some of the wildest, most warlike tribes on earth; the life that both Lermontoff and Tolstoy have depicted. He had a heart for every adventure, but, most of all perhaps, loved the wild and rather perilous boar and bear hunts in the mountain forests which are a part of the regular training of officers and men stationed there. Alexei Brusiloff earned a reputation as one of the best riders in that whole region, whether after hounds or in regimental steeplechases."

His military rise was steady. Brusiloff

great military manoeuvres are to-day being staged along the Russian front.

Chicago's Mayor Leaps Into the Limelight

SEVERAL events of the last few weeks have made William Hale Thompson the most widely known Mayor in the United States. And Mayor Thompson cannot be accused of being the kind of man who stands still humbly until Fame yanks him by the forelock into the light of publicity. Mayor Thompson has himself, to the contrary, contributed largely to the fame which now surrounds his name; first, by an apparent reluctance to welcome the French and British missions to Chicago, over which city he stretches a sovereign hand; secondly, by an expressed unwillingness to push the sale of Liberty Bonds in the Chicago City Hall, and, thirdly, by a strategic advance upon the Board of Education in Chicago, in which circumstances he was forced to retreat from the council chamber a few feet ahead of a bulky volume of the law aimed at his head. That Chicago talks impeachment of its Mayor is merely incidental to the events of a career that has already contributed much to the nation's headlines.

Mayor Thompson, strange as it may seem to some and possibly expected as it may be to others, was born in Boston—the Massachusetts town. However, with his parents he removed to Chicago at an

early age, where, except for five years spent on his father's ranches in Wyoming, Colorado and Montana, he has remained exposed to the rigors of the Middle West ever since.

He is a wealthy man by inheritance rather than by politics, a former Alderman of Chicago and Mayor since 1915. He is married and lives in an aristocratic neighborhood on Sheridan Road.

One of the Militants

MABEL VERNON, national secretary of the National Woman's Party, is a firm believer in militant tactics when it comes to suffrage. Like the other members of the Woman's Party—formerly the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage—she advocates a Federal amendment.

It was her particular suffrage organization which was responsible for the suffrage banner which, hung out in Washington late in June as members of the Russian mission were driving to the White House, evoked cries of "Treason!" and, it is said, caused bitter opposition to the suffrage movement. It was rumored recently that Miss Vernon had been lodged in jail. This, however, was denied at the local headquarters last Thursday.

Originally from Wilmington, Del., Miss Vernon is now a citizen of Nevada, with residence at Reno—and a vote. She was the organizer of the suffrage automobile trip by which envoys from the suffrage convention in San Francisco brought their resolutions to Congress and the President two years ago. Recently, when a deputation from the various liberal parties went to the President, she represented the Woman's Party in a group which has been described as composed of "Socialists, Pro-



Mabel Vernon

hibitionists, Anarchists, Democrats and Suffragists." A graduate of Swarthmore College, Miss Vernon taught in a high school before she became a suffrage speaker four years ago.

The British and Canadian Food "Dictators"

BARON RHONDDA, the British Food Controller, is another of the leaders of "big business" that war has called from private enterprise to direct the destinies of an empire. Until 1915 Baron Rhondda was David Alfred Thomas, Master of Arts of Caius College, Cambridge, and head of one of the largest coal businesses in England, known as the Cambrian Coal Combine. He has been in Parliament twice as a Liberal, came to the United States to direct the manufacture of mu-



Baron Rhondda (Above)
W. J. Hanna (Below)

ditions for the Allies, survived the Lusitania and was created Baron Rhondda for his services.

His Canadian associate in the matter of food control is the Hon. William John Hanna, K. C., of Toronto, twice a member of the provincial Parliament and Provincial Secretary and Registrar General of Ontario since 1905.

Two Strong Austrian Poles

THE Poles are still divided in their war sentiments. In spite of the Russian revolution and the pledge of independence it brought to the Polish nation, a considerable number of Poles entertain pro-Ger-

man sentiments. Last week one of the leading Austrian Poles, Leon Bilinski, created a sensation by declaring in the Reichsrat that an independent Poland, including Galicia, should be incorporated under the sceptre of a kaiser, presumably meaning that either the German or Austrian Kaiser should be crowned King of Poland.

The man who made this proposal is a statesman of first rank. Bilinski was Minister of Finance in the Austrian Cabinet some years ago. He is the president of the Polish Parliamentary Club in the Austrian Parliament. This body voted for the imperial budget after Bilinski's declaration, which found favor in government circles, thus going on record as supporting Emperor Charles. Bilinski was also up to a short time ago chairman of the Polish Supreme National Committee. This committee was formed early in the war to lead the movement for the restora-

tion of Poland, and was regarded by the Poles as their chief executive body.

At the other extreme of the Austrian Poles stands Ignace Darzynski, the leader of the Polish Socialists. He represents the elements which look toward the defeat of the Central Powers as the only sure guarantee of a reunited Poland. The Russian upheaval added much force to Polish Socialism. His resignation from the Polish Parliamentary Club, which took place last year, had an important effect on the Teutonic governments, as it amounted to a clear warning that radical Poland would no longer identify itself with the groups supporting the policies of the Central Powers.

When the war is over this question will have to be answered, and definite steps will have to be taken to prevent the answer from being in the affirmative. For two things then be certain. First, more men will be required for the industries of the country, and particularly for its agriculture; and, second, there will be a greater inclination than ever on the part of the more adventurous and more enterprising of the population to go to other lands.

The war has broadened enormously the outlook even of those who are not taking an active part in it, while it is already well understood that many of those who left their workshops and their farms and their office desks to take their part in the European fighting will never again settle down to their old jobs. They have "seen red" in more ways than one. They have realized that there is a very large world outside of Scotland and they will wish to see more of that world, and especially those parts of it which are within the English speaking areas.

At present all emigration is banned, but it is not conceivable that this ban can be maintained after peace is declared, so that the problem for the authorities will be how to make the country sufficiently attractive to retain the largest possible number of its men. Otherwise the population must continue to decrease, and one result of the war will be the further scattering of the Scottish stock all over the world and the further impoverishment of the country from which that stock originally sprang.

Here's Another War Prophet

THERE have been so very many prophecies concerning the end of the war that prophets (and they continue to flourish) have come to arouse rather an emotion of mild curiosity than one of breathless intensity—although the whisper of hope is not silenced.

Dr. Arthur Shadwell, writing in "The Nineteenth Century," believes the nations are approaching the end. The flame, because of its sheer fury, cannot, he feels, endure much longer. While:

Events have moved so fast of late that though the future is still uncertain it is less obscure than it was a few months ago. The veil is thinner, and some things can be seen through it. One is that the war will not last very much longer, by which I mean that it will not drag on indefinitely or even for two or three years.

It cannot be the pace is too hot and the strain too great. It might have been otherwise. If the pace had slackened and a lull had occurred, giving time for rest and recuperation, the war might have been drawn out longer.

That is what used to happen in the old wars, which lasted for decades. Troops used to go regularly into winter quarters, and there were long periods of inactivity, with armistices and occasional spells of peace. Warfare was not continuous.

Nor when it went on did it involve efforts comparable with those demanded by this war, in which the whole strength of the belligerent nations is thrown into the struggle. This unprecedented strain we owe to the German military policy, which set the pace in the scale of armies and development of weapons in preparation and, finally, of operations in action.

The result is to make a long drawn war impossible; the strain cannot be borne. And by a just decree of fate the consequences of Germany's own policy are recoiling on her own head.

Are the "Bonnie" Scotch Dying Out?

AN ALARMING story of a falling birth rate in Scotland has just been received by "The Chicago Daily News" from a special correspondent, W. L. Manson, writing from Glasgow. He says: The Registrar General has provided statistics which have suggested to some pessimistic writers the idea that the people of Scotland are dying out, and that one result of the war will be a marked decrease in the population. The birth rate in 1915 was the lowest on record and the marriage rate the highest since 1855, while the death rate was exceptionally high, next to that of the years 1875, 1891, 1892 and 1900.

It is not possible to explain these facts fully, as the circumstances are wholly exceptional. The high marriage rate is probably explained by the fact that many young men married before entering military service, so that their wives might be able to draw the full army pay. But there is no such explanation of the low birth rate or the high death rate. The former is perhaps attributable to the fact that for some years back many of the young men of the country have been emigrating to British overseas dominions, and the latter to the fact that there are now in Scotland more old people and people physically unfit than usual. The young and strong have been sifted out for military service, and it is only natural, therefore, that the percentage of mortality among these left should be higher than the normal.

Are Real Scots Dying Out?

But all students of social questions will admit that the falling birth rate is one of the problems which will have to be faced in the near future. Apart altogether from the serious losses of men in the war, the vital statistics of the country are a matter of serious national concern. Those for 1915 were really the worst in the history of Scotland, and its Edinburgh birth rate was the lowest ever recorded in any city anywhere. The fact is that the war has emphasized enormously a process which has been going on for many years back, the process of draining the country by emigration of a very large proportion of its best blood. The stock seemed to be inexhaustible, and as the prospects abroad always seemed better than those at home the flow of young manhood and womanhood across the Atlantic, and to a smaller extent, to Australia and New Zealand, was continuous. So far as the war itself is concerned, the country has not lost much by this, as so many thousands of the Scots who emigrated, or their descendants, are now fighting for their country. But the withdrawal of so many young men for military service from the already depleted ranks of the population at home has brought the matter prominently to the front and raised it a very pointed form the question: Is the Scottish stock in the old country really dying out?

Many Despise Old Jobs

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Foreign Students at French Universities

THERE were 2,046 of them January 15, 1904; 6,132 January 15, 1914, or an increase of 290 per cent in ten years. Of the 6,132, there were 2,123 Russians, mostly Hebrews; the relatively small number of Russian colleges and universities, the low status of their efficiency and the restrictions to which the Jewish students in pre-revolutionary times were submitted explain the exodus of the Russian intelligentsia to the seats of learning of Western Europe, mainly of France, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany.

The Rumanian quota of 458 testifies to the attachment of the Rumanian people to the, at present, highest representative of consanguineous Latin civilization.

Turkey was represented by 311 students, mainly hailing from Syria, Palestine and Armenia.

Of the 291 Bulgars of 1914, very few will have the courage to return to Paris; they can thank Czar Ferdinand for their ostracism.

Curiously enough, Francophile countries, such as Serbia (103), Portugal (28) and Brazil (34), sent only an insignificant number of their youth to French schools, while South America (outside of Brazil) is represented by the insignificant figure of 83.

Which Shall It Be?

AN INTERNATIONAL drive is being made against trousers. The soldier has sloughed off his gaudy and cumbersome trappings and stands forth as the model of manly costume. In England the Scotch kilt is being recommended for civilian use, and in this country the cry has been raised for the trim clothes of the soldier, as against the ludicrous pantaloons which civilians wear, borrowed from the Italian clown.

As Associated Press dispatch from London announced the serious programme which is under consideration in England for economizing on cloths and dyestuffs by

Many important newspapers have come out for the kilt.

"The Liverpool Post" says: "Certainly something should be done to abolish the hideous cylindrical bags in which we hide our legs to-day. Whoever saw a statue that looked dignified in trousers?"

The presence of thousands of Scottish troops in all parts of the country has made the kilt popular with many civilians.

As "The Independent" points out, the soldier's jacket looks loose and comfortable and it has real pockets in which it is possible to put things without spoiling the set. He has discarded the sham vest, a garment

the knees and all in vain. Trousers bag at the knees because they ought to, and it is a crime against nature to try to keep them from it.

Which is it to be? The pantaloons of the civilian, the leggings of the soldier, the kilt of the Highlander or the bell-shaped trousers nuisance of the sailor? "The New York Call" thus makes merry over the kilt:

"This is the psychological moment to take the pants off the Britisher and rig him out in a short petticoat, as was the fashion among the ancient Britons. The ancient Britons used a sort of blue for their scanty skirts. They called it 'woad.' And sometimes, as history relates, they painted their bare hides with it, also.

"The kilt should henceforth always be referred to eulogistically as 'the garb of old Gaul,' and all disdainful references to 'bare-legged savages' should be frowned down by the best society. That was all right to throw out as a gibe against Scots, but this is no time for such fool mockery."

Godolphin G. Ginkle, a British agent in this country to purchase socks for the Tommies, stated recently in "The New



Drawing by Jeanne Stevens

adopting the kilt for boys and for adults in certain lines of work.

In support of kilts a government fashion expert says they dispense with the nuisance of pressing, and of their durability there can be no question, because Scottish families have passed one kilt from generation to generation.

Another argument advanced in favor of the kilt is the advice of physicians, who say that it is the ideal dress for boys, because it gives them the greatest warmth around the stomach and greater freedom than trousers.

as hypocritical as a dickey, reminding one of Gunga Din's costume, "nothin' much afore, and rather less than 'arf' of that behind."

In the matter of neckwear the soldier has something to learn from the sailor, but not in the matter of trousers. The trousers of the modern soldier are tight where they should be loose, at the bottom, and loose where they should be tight, at the top. Best of all, they bag at the knees. An enormous amount of money and worry and time and energy have been wasted in trying to keep trousers from bagging at

York Times" that the chief excitement in London just now—apart from the war and the "soul-destroying Irish conundrum"—is the fight over "the proposed dress reform." Mr. Ginkle declares:

"A lot of silly blighters—I refrain from using a stronger term—insist that men and women should wear kilts and short jackets,