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Our able weekly contemporary, the Outlook, remarks of the decision:

"Some of our contemporaries appear to think that the decision of the Supreme Court in the insular cases is a landmark. They appear to be entirely correct with each other and entirely correct in themselves."

This idea of inconsistency, if it still exists in any intelligent mind, concerns the opinions rather than the judgments. It arises from a slight confusion in the use of terms.

The word decision is loosely used either to denote the judgment or conclusion of the court or to cover the entire body of written opinion in which the concurring judges respectively exhibit the process of reasoning by which they arrived at the conclusion or judgment.

In the Downes case, for instance, Justice WHITE concurred in the judgment of the majority, while disagreeing avowedly and somewhat widely with the opinion delivered by Justice BREWER.

The judgments of the court in the several cases are absolutely coherent. There is no lack of consistency between the judgment which declares illegal the collection, under the Dingley act, of duties against Porto Rico after its cession to the United States but before the enactment of the Foraker tariff, and the judgment which affirms the power of Congress to legislate specially for Porto Rico, the Constitution of the Foraker act, and the legality of the duties collected under the same.

At the same time there might be inconsistency, incoherence and a lack of clearness in the opinions of the several Justices concurring in judgments that were consistent with each other, coherent in principle and perfectly clear as they stood on the record. That is another question.

The Canteen Question.

Additional light has been thrown on the question whether it was wise to abolish the army canteen by a discussion at the meeting of the Association of Military and Naval Surgeons last week in St. Paul. Dr. LOTTIS L. SKELMAN of this city declared that not only had drunkenness increased threefold, as shown by the record of court-martials, but he brought the more serious indictment that immorality had increased nearly 100 per cent. He furthermore declared that the soldiers, only 5 per cent, of whom are total abstainers from the use of liquor, had been driven into the very excesses sought to be abolished, and added that the men, when compelled to get their liquor away from the post, "leave the saloon for the brothel."

These charges should be verified easily. The matter of increase or decrease of drunkenness as the result of abolishing the canteen has been regarded as one of opinion, but if the army records show a great increase in intemperance and alarming additions to the ranks of the incapacitated through grosser evils there can be no question that it is time to reverse a policy which has been made into law through the zeal of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to promote the welfare of the troops. There would seem to be no sound reason why men who wear the United States Army uniform should be deprived of personal privileges held by other citizens.

The surgeons at the St. Paul meeting declared unanimously in favor of the restoration of the canteen in the interests of the morality and sanitation."

The St. Paul meeting clears the way to a scientific study of the question. No doubt the War Department will collect and systematize data on this subject, the accuracy of which cannot be questioned. If it should be shown that immorality has increased, even should there be dispute as to the growth of intemperance, the question is taken immediately from the domain of speculation to that of fact and there should be a prompt reversal of the present law when Congress meets, no matter how excellent were the motives which inspired the agitation that resulted in abolishing the canteen.

The Golden Mean in Land Holding.

The tendency is growing among our men of wealth to acquire large landed properties in the country. Their idea is fundamentally different from that of the great landowners in Europe who, as a rule, include their wide-spread acres among their interest-bearing property, deriving a large part of their income from the rent rolls. The country estates of rich Americans, now particularly numerous within easy reach of New York city, have been acquired, on the other hand, with a view to the comfort and pleasure of their owners and their friends. The beauties of nature are enhanced by every charm that landscape gardening, handsome mansions and delightful drives can impart. Most of these estates are simply the country homes of men who can afford to make every improvement which will increase their attractiveness. They vary in extent from a few hundred acres to a thousand or fifteen hundred acres, and a few of them are much larger. The most conspicuous recent investment of this character is that of Mr. HARRIMAN, who has purchased about twenty thousand acres in the wooded and hilly region to the west and north of Tuxedo Park. A number of the largest estates in this country are maintained chiefly as game preserves but Mr. HARRIMAN'S ideas of sport seem to extend no further than to stock the two lakes on his land with fish.

Mr. HARRIMAN'S purchase may seem to many Americans to be noteworthy in point of the area he has acquired, it will appear, however, to the men who own most of the soil of the British Isles as a rather small country holding. The average landed estate of the nobility of the United Kingdom, a few years ago, was 29,900 acres, in a total of 15,900,000 acres. Twelve persons owned 4,400,000 acres. Two-thirds of the soil of the British Isles is the property of about 15,000 individuals. The Duke of SUTHERLAND, one of the largest landowners in the world, holds the title to 1,358,548 acres. Mr. HARRIMAN has one lake on his estate that

is nearly a half mile long; but several of the finest and most famous lakes of Scotland are included within the limits of a single estate. If any of our own country estates were as large in proportion to our total area as those of Great Britain they would include as much territory as some of the kingdoms and principalities in the German Empire.

The tendency in Europe, outside of the United Kingdom, is to divide the land among a larger number of small holders; and even in Ireland, under the present land laws and on account of the financial embarrassments of some of the large holders, the number of peasant proprietors has greatly increased in the past quarter of a century. Nearly all the large estates of Germany are now confined to the eastern half of Prussia and some of them, heavily mortgaged, are being parcelled out among small holders. The German peasant has become the owner of the land he tills and is proving that he can make his small farm yield heavier crops to the acre than are grown on the large estates. His country is more prosperous because he has a proprietary interest in the soil.

This country is not likely to suffer from any of the ill effects of an excessive number of large estates. Our five million farms are one of the strongest guarantees of the perpetuity of our nation. The eight million landed proprietors of France have sometimes prevented revolutions and have never made them. It would be better for the people of Spain and Italy, as well as of Ireland, if there were fewer large estates, and a smaller amount of absentee ownership and greater concentration of landed property in the hands of the people. Experience has shown, however, that very minute subdivisions of the land is detrimental to prosperity, as in China and India. There can be little progress where millions of holdings are too small to give those who till them all the most and bread they require. It is because abject poverty accompanies the subdivision of very large tracts into meagre plots of farming land that Sweden forbids the further diminution of any piece of land that has become insufficient for the support of at least three persons. The ideal farm holding is all the land one family can till well and fully utilize and no more. We have the golden mean in our farms of eighty and one hundred and sixty acres. They reward their farmer with a competency, contribute their fair share to the wealth of the country.

No Third Term Question.

The remarks of Senator DREW upon the propriety of repealing in 1914 the unwritten law against a third term for an American President can scarcely give unalloyed satisfaction to the gentleman most concerned. No friend or enemy of Mr. McKINLEY anywhere in the United States, or in the territories and possessions of the United States, really suspects him of entertaining any desire beyond the end of his second term save for retirement and honorably earned relief from the heavy responsibilities he is bearing so stoutly. But if Mr. McKINLEY were in fact cogitating privately the possibilities of this unprecedented thing, his remarkable genius for practical politics would inform him at once that our junior Senator was doing him and his secret plans poor service by inviting premature discussion. On the other hand, having no political ambition except to do well his present duty, the President must shrink a little at a compliment, however well meant, that couples itself with a proposition so unnecessary and so repugnant to the ideas of the major part of the American people.

England's Military Outlook.

The South African war, which was ended officially some months ago, still calls for a large British army in the field. The returns for May 1 show 249,418 officers and men serving in South Africa, of whom 418,800 officers and 1,319,819 men belong to the regular army. There are 58,821 "Colonial" Volunteers, and 29,104 Militia. Up to April 30, the casualties of the war had been killed, 4,022; wounded, 17,230; died of disease or wounds, 10,396. On March 15, there were 13,767 sick in hospital. From a Parliamentary paper setting forth the war expenditure and the proposals for far made for meeting it, it appears that the South African and Chinese wars have cost Great Britain £153,317,000, two-thirds of it met by borrowing, nearly £10,000,000 raised by suspending payments to the sinking fund, and as much more by using the surplus of 1899-1900. The remainder is to be met out of the proceeds of additional taxation. This additional taxation has been estimated to produce £37,404,000; but the ordinary revenues would have been insufficient to meet ordinary expenditures in 1900-02 by nearly £11,000,000, so that the increased taxation will provide only £26,740,000 to meet the increased war debts. As the war is still costing about £20,000,000 a year, the prospect is for yet another increase of taxation. Lord KITCHENER'S latest "regrets" for Vlakfontein indicate that the time is by no means at hand when such expenditures may be reduced.

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applies for a commission gets it, if the advertisements of the army coaching schools are to be believed. One such school remarks: "The method of selection adopted in September, 1900, was unique, owing to the war and mobilization, and had little relation to knowledge of any branch of learning; and speaks of the time "when the military examinations were serious competitions, and success depended on intellectual efforts," &c. Very evidently Mr. BRODRICK has not yet found the way to raise a large army, and it would seem that the Government appreciates that fact, for in a recent speech Lord RAGLAN, the Under Secretary for War, spoke of compulsory service as possibly necessary to provide the personnel of the desired army. The military clouds over Great Britain show little signs of passing away.

Constructor Capps and the Superposed Turrets.

The removal of the damaged 13-inch gun from the turret of the battleship Kearsarge, and its replacement by a new rifle of like caliber, was an event of very great importance to our navy—how great is hardly appreciated outside of the service. The thanks of the Navy Department given to Naval Constructor CAPPS, and his assistants, Commander BRIGGS and Lieutenant-Commander WARD, were well deserved, for the successful issue of the operation practically removed a cloud from the future of two of our largest battleships, and from the type they represented.

All the criticism against which the double turrets had been adopted was revived when the recent disabling of the gun in question opened the prospect that the upper turret must be removed entire to get the gun to be replaced by an unjacketed rifle. The successful execution of the Capps plan for removing the gun by first removing a complete of its own turret—an operation very simple when compared with the other—proved this class of vessels of a great objection confronting them, and restored them to the favor they enjoyed before. With this fact to support the success of the system in such tests as it has received, the way is again clear for building other vessels of the Kearsarge type and for other countries to follow suit.

Progress in Boat Building.

We are surprised that of the impulsive, almost hysterical outcry against the modern Cup yachts because two of them have lately lost their masts, so much should come from the newspapers of Boston, to whose nostrils the east wind brings the smell of the sea in its virgin freshness. Even the usually sensational *Journal* is conspicuous in calling for the old-fashioned wooden masts, or, if the steel is to be retained, for "the substantial spar which towers above the mighty hulls of ocean liners." That particular object has shrunk of late to a pole to carry lights on. It never knows canvas, probably couldn't carry much to speak of, and the mast that adorned the Constitution could look over its head.

Justice Gaylor Issues One to Compel Him to Appear Four City Magistrates.

Supreme Court Justice Gaylor issued a peremptory writ of mandamus yesterday compelling Mayor Van Wyck to appear before four City Magistrates in Brooklyn in place of Magistrates Lewis B. Worth, Charles E. Tuley, Andrew Johnson and William K. Allen. Justice Gaylor holds, expired on May 31 last.

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