

The Sun

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Our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication will be pleased to find that we do not require any return stamps for that purpose.

Our New Financial Power.

Record breaking figures are reported for the country's foreign trade in December. The international money market is showing the increasing ascendancy of American finance.

There is a close relation between all these facts which show how fast we have travelled in a few months to recovery from the shock of the outbreak of the European war and what progress we have made toward an economic equilibrium that seemed only a little while ago too remote even to dream about.

No wonder foreign exchange has turned sharply against all the rest of the world and in favor of the United States. Even while we were rehabilitating ourselves in international confidence as a debt paying nation by proceeding to arrange for gold shipments to discharge current balances against us abroad, the worldwide demand for goods and commodities which we could best supply was taking care automatically of the settlement of our foreign indebtedness.

The Admiral naturally asks that his testimony be corrected. It was certainly misleading, for he told the committee on December 9 that "the ships [of the Atlantic fleet] individually are in a high state of efficiency, as high as they have ever been."

December exports reached the fourth largest total for any month in the country's history. The December balance of exports was larger by \$17,000,000 than any previous export excess for December.

When there is taken into consideration the reduction already effected in our customary expenditures abroad for the bills of travellers and in other ways, it is a very reasonable estimate that since the start of the war we have been creating foreign credits at the rate of \$150,000,000 a month, and the ratio is increasing.

As a result of the matters noted our bankers to-day have such control of the foreign exchanges that they could force gold to come here from foreign financial centres, or compel them to resort to preventive measures.

Great Britain's formal refusal through the Treasury announcement to provide capital during the war to countries outside the British Empire is in so many words a declaration of the necessity which confronts the United States to do what it can in supplying funds for international employment in the pur-

chase and movement of agricultural staples and the products of the manufacturing industry. In comparison with the money which the whole world has been in the habit of drawing from the European reservoirs of capital the accommodation which we can grant must seem very small, but it will grow as the months pass.

Already our bankers have made a substantial beginning, and quite apart from any conception of obligations imposed upon us by the natural advantages which our neutrality multiplies so hugely, every rule of national self-interest urges us to do all in our power to strengthen the financial situation in other lands. In doing so we shall promote and sustain the foreign trade movement now under way, and what is even more, we will augment our assets of international good will, which, even though it cannot be capitalized in the nation's balance sheet, has a solid and definite commercial value.

Let Us See the Soldiers Offener.

General Wood was well advised when he decided to march the Thirtieth Regiment of United States Infantry from the Battery to Fifty-ninth street this week. How long it was since the town had previously seen a complete organization of the country's foot soldiers we do not know.

It would do much to stimulate interest in the army and to encourage understanding of its work if its members were often put on show. Whether from a deliberate intention to avoid notice or from the accidents of the service, it is a fact that the infantry, cavalry and field artillery that do their work so competently wherever their services are needed are seldom seen in the large cities of the country.

If it could be arranged without undue strain on the resources of the army, it would be an admirable thing to put the soldiers on view more frequently. Should a policy including this use of the army be adopted it would have two effects: it would remind many persons who have almost forgotten it that we have a military arm, and it would soon result in a much needed expansion of the army.

The Unready Atlantic Fleet.

A most amazing discovery has been made by Admiral FRANK F. FLETCHER, the commander of the Atlantic fleet, who testified before the House Naval Committee recently that "it would require something like 4,000 or 5,000 additional men to fully man the ships which I think ought to be fully manned upon the opening of hostilities."

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Stupid and Barbarous Warfare.

"From January 19 to 20 German airships bombarded the fortified places of Yarmouth and other places on the English coast," says an official despatch given out at Berlin. Yarmouth is not fortified, nor were any of the other places attacked by the German raiders fortified. Yarmouth is a fishing port with only twelve feet of water at the bar when the tide is out, and in the summer it is a popular seaside resort.

All this is known to the German Intelligence Department, which is famous for the world over for the extent and accuracy of its military information. Therefore, the description of Yarmouth as a fortified place is a brazen invention officially published to justify a wanton violation of the rules of civilized warfare. The best that could be said for the invaders is that in the night, when they discharged their bombs and explosives, it was difficult to make out one inhabited place from another, but that is the sort of extenuation which is an indictment.

Aside from the only possible characterization of such a method of warfare, what is the military value of bombardment from either dirigibles or aeroplanes? The supply of explosives that can be carried is small and the damage done is negligible. Cities have been battered for days, weeks and months by hundreds of sledge guns throwing thousands of shells, and the cities have held out, while the life of civilians remaining there has not undergone radical changes, because the casualty percentage both among the troops and the non-combatants has not been on an alarming scale. We are speaking, of course, of wars of the past, but the precedents are

relevant to the new aerial warfare, since we know that it has had comparatively few victims.

"Considerable damage has been done," boasts the official bulletin of the raid on the English east coast. The truth is the damage to property was insignificant and the people killed were an old woman, an aged man and one boy, while about thirty other persons were wounded. How can a nation be intimidated by such an infinitesimal percentage of mortality? The only effect of the barbarous aggression is to inflame the spirit of its people to white heat and to nerve them to give their lives willingly for the country if the sacrifice is required.

Secretary REIDFIELD told the people of Louisville, Ky., this week that "if the facts were fully known public opinion would insist upon drastic action which would prevent recurrence of the arbitrary series of holdups and exactions of which our foreign commerce is the unwilling victim," but he refrained from saying anything about the burdens put on business generally by ignorant, meddlesome and sometimes malicious Federal legislation.

Through the London Daily Chronicle the Journalists of America learn from the Kilmische Zeitung that "American newspapers have the ruin of the British cables for nothing," which will unquestionably be good news to a number of harassed newspaper business managers.

Systematic vs. Competitive Athletics.

Partisans of college athletics become impatient when the faulty method of excessive exercise is pointed out, and those who claim conservatism in this regard grow unreasonable when they encounter opposition. College athletics has been established so long that efforts to confine it within moderate limits are met with vigorous protest rather than with sober discussion.

That the strenuous training of students of mature age has been productive of lamentable results when these hard and big muscled young men failed to continue or were forced to discontinue the active training to which they were indebted for muscular prowess has been demonstrated too frequently to be disregarded in a discussion of college athletics. This being true of college athletics it becomes more forcefully apparent in athletics of high schools, "team" competition practised by boys of less developed physique, in whom the process of growth must be seriously interfered with by training for competitive contests.

While systematic exercise or physical culture under an intelligent instructor is rewarded by beneficent results, competitive athletics demanding change of diet and habits and self-denial has been found to impair keenness of intellect as well as the integrity of the body. Well thought out exercise, no matter how strenuous when adapted to the age and constitutional capacity of the boy or girl, together with interesting social functions, relieves the monotony of school life. But as the investigations of Professor BARNES of the Wisconsin University have clearly shown, from 5 to 10 per cent. of the freshmen in that university already present enlargement of the heart and dilation attributable to indulgence in athletic sports, which appear to have become a sine qua non in our preparatory schools. This handicap weighs the student down throughout his whole college career, making him unhappy by reason of his being debarred from all exercise and really diminishing his capacity for scholastic work.

The lesson is obvious, to limit boys and girls to systematic and mildly exacting exercises that do not induce nervous and muscular strain during the growing period of life, to avoid altogether all violent competitive work, as has been recently done in bicycling eight miles by several boy scouts in midwinter as an endurance test. The human body is a self-regulating machine that may be depended upon safely after it has reached maturity. Previous to this period its various parts are not sufficiently developed to regulate the organic compensatory functions.

According to incomplete reports of his remarks before the Indiana Legislature, President TARR foresees the end of all wars. Most folks would be glad to foresee the end of even one.

Bishop BRUCE of Albany, who died suddenly on Wednesday, throughout his long service in his church was a great friend and counsellor of children. When his duties were most pressing and his labors most exhausting he still had time always to greet them, and that he derived more pleasure from their society than from that of most grown-ups even his constant courtesy and patience with all never obscured, and the children loved the little Bishop, a fact that proves as conclusively as any other that a good clergyman he was a good man.

No accusation brought against Secretary BRAY by a person bearing the sinister name of Beer can obtain a moment's credence.

The London Daily Express advocates the treatment of bomb dropping airmen as murderers; but this involves catching them first.

An eminent ex-policeman is authority for the statement that "we never had gangs before Mayor DAWSON's order against clubbing was issued" and yet some persons cannot understand why police testimony is looked on with great suspicion.

There is no substantial basis for criticism of the Governor and Legislature because they are going to devote

only three weeks to investigating the Public Service Commission before these boards are reorganized. The Governor and the Legislature have already devised the necessary remedy and they should not be expected to hamper themselves with facts.

That almost overpowering silence now afflicting the State constitutes the symphonic applause evoked by Senator WANNING'S impassioned presentation of the Democratic bill holders to make room for Republicans.

In 1776 the British did not force this country into rebellion. A mad German King did this against the wishes of the British people, and the British themselves declining to fight, the German King turned to the Hessians to fight his battles. Dr. Hall knows as well as any one can know that this happened before the first reform bill was introduced.

The very reverend and most truthful doctor must know that in the war of 1861 between the North and South famine stalked through Lancashire, owing to the shortage of cotton, which the North absolutely prevented from leaving Southern ports through her blockade.

It appears that an indorsement of ROBERT SULLIVAN projected by President WILSON almost drove the present Secretary of State out of the Cabinet, which shows by what a narrow margin Mr. SULLIVAN escaped translation into a great public benefactor.

So far as it goes the proposal to put badges on Congressmen is objectionable, but the reform really needed would put a certain number of them in straitjackets.

Germany needs to continue the vigorous education of her youth, both now and hereafter. The doctor who comes there will be great hatred and hostility. Therefore let us clap on our helmets tighter.—BARON VON DER GOLTZ.

The suggestion of Mr. BURR M. McCORMACK of the Steiersons Army expedition that hydroaeroplanes be used to discover and aid in the rescue of VIKINGALMAR STEPHANSON and his two companions, who left Martin Point on an exploring expedition and have not been heard of since, might be carried out with some hope of success in the short winter season.

That the strenuous training of students of mature age has been productive of lamentable results when these hard and big muscled young men failed to continue or were forced to discontinue the active training to which they were indebted for muscular prowess has been demonstrated too frequently to be disregarded in a discussion of college athletics. This being true of college athletics it becomes more forcefully apparent in athletics of high schools, "team" competition practised by boys of less developed physique, in whom the process of growth must be seriously interfered with by training for competitive contests.

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A WORD TO DR. HALL.

The Conduct of Great Britain Defended From His Assailant.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Who Thomas C. Hall, D. D., is, or what denomination he belongs to, I do not know, but for a clergyman who is supposedly a disciple of the Prince of Peace his article in THE SUN of January 17 is such an extraordinary outburst of spleen, rancor and hatred, and is also so full of misstatements and half truths, that one hates to believe the signature correct.

Take a few of these statements: In the Boer war the British did not march through Egypt to the Red Sea. In 1776 the British did not force this country into rebellion. A mad German King did this against the wishes of the British people, and the British themselves declining to fight, the German King turned to the Hessians to fight his battles.

Dr. Hall knows as well as any one can know that this happened before the first reform bill was introduced. The very reverend and most truthful doctor must know that in the war of 1861 between the North and South famine stalked through Lancashire, owing to the shortage of cotton, which the North absolutely prevented from leaving Southern ports through her blockade.

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"AMERICA" OR "GOD SAVE THE KING"?

Admiral Chadwick Discusses This National Air of Many Nations.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Referring to "A. E. G.'s" letter on "God Save the King" in THE SUN of January 17, Lord Cromer in his excellent account of his late caliphate discusses somewhat the difference between the Eastern and Western administration of justice. He tells the story of a conversation between a French Judge and an Algerian sheik on the introduction of the French procedure in Algeria. The gist of the story as related is that the sheik remarked: "I will have no more justice now; witnesses will be required."

There is a depth of philosophy in this, a phase of which is that witnesses would also have to be believed. In this case I have no hesitancy in placing myself with the Arab, for the psychological testimony far transcends in my mind any of the sort proffered by the French procedure.

The air in question, call it what we may, let us say "America," is the national air of Great Britain, the German Empire, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. My authority is the official publication of the Navy Department, prepared for the use of ships' bands by Sousa. It does not stand to reason that the wide distribution of this as a national air, and established, too, when international communication was difficult and slow, and interchange of literature, music, and thought, but moderate as compared with to-day, should have been taken up in any degree simultaneously in so many countries. Such things are not done at random.

James O. Carter, representing the General Electric Company, said that the greatest deficiency in the present law is the requirement that payments shall be made through the Compensation Commission. He said that injured workmen and their families sometimes did not receive compensation until several months after employment was ended, although the employer was notified at once of the injury. He suggested direct payment from employer to employee, subject to approval of the Compensation Commission.

James O. Phillips, Deputy Compensation Commissioner, had a good word for the married workers who, it had been said, were discriminated against on account of their families. He said that he had investigated, and he said that the married men were better risks, better workmen and more permanent in their jobs, and for that reason they should not be discriminated against.

Other speakers were T. N. Gierbin, president of the New York State Federation of Labor and a member of the committee on the compensation committee of the Chamber of Commerce; B. F. Schlesinger, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, and J. H. Moore, president of the First Mutual Liability Insurance Company.

The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor announced yesterday that it now has in its care 573 dependent widows, with 2,291 children, and that during the last month it spent for the relief of this group \$8,761.26, or one-third of its total relief expenditures for that month.

In discussing the relief policy of the association toward needy widows families, Cornelius N. Bliss, Jr., president of the association, said: "One of the chief work we are doing during the last two years given particular attention to this class of families and we are committed to the principle of adequate relief for the dependent children of these widows. It is our duty to give this relief as most important and it is devoting its best energies to perfecting its methods and standards. It is not opposed to this relief being given by the city of New York provided it be adequate and administered efficiently and impartially."

President Churchill of the Board of Education sent a letter to Mayor Mitchell yesterday in reference to the proposal to reduce the membership of the board from forty to nine or ten. The letter said: "Information has come to me through the public press that on January 22 the Board of Estimate is to consider a draft of a proposed bill to reduce the size of the Board of Education. Although this legislation vitally affects the schools represented by the Board of Education, it is not a matter of regret to me and other members of the board that a report affecting so vitally the public schools was presented to the Board of Estimate without first advising with the Board of Education and asking that action be taken."

Mr. McAneny, as chairman of the charter revision committee, accepted yesterday the suggestion of President Churchill that the Board of Education should be reduced to nine. Mr. McAneny will ask the Board of Estimate to-day to lay over the entire matter for another week and will suggest that a special conference be arranged, instead of the school board be arranged.

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PAYING A WEEK WAGES FOR WORKERS HURT

Bill in Assembly to Change Compensation Law Would Cost Employers Millions.

14 DAYS DELAY ASSAILED

ALBANY, Jan. 21.—Legislation cutting from fourteen to seven days the period after which workmen injured at their occupations shall get awards under the State workmen's compensation law was introduced in the lower house to-day by Assemblyman Terlin of New York city, a Republican. Should this bill go through it is estimated that the extra cost to employers would be several millions of dollars a year.

Robert E. Dowling of the Workmen's Compensation Commission and the other members are said to have considered the question of changing the period within which awards shall be made, but decided that the change would be too costly, and would entail an enormous expense to insurance companies and the State fund in working out new schedules of liabilities.

Workmen all over the State have been complaining that when forced to quit work for two weeks because of injuries they did not receive any compensation. The compensation starts on the fifteenth day after the injury. This seven day plan is said to have been carried out with effect in Ohio successfully.

CHANGE IN LAW URGED

Civic Education Committee Hears of Defect in Payment.

Objections to the present workmen's compensation law of this State and suggested changes in the law were discussed yesterday at a meeting of the National Civic Federation's joint committee of fifteen at the Metropolitan Life Building. The committee, which includes in its membership representatives of employers, the New York State Federation of Labor and the Civic Federation, is charged with the task of gathering information concerning the operation of the present act and of securing such legislation as may be thought necessary. The basis of the discussion was a pamphlet on workmen's compensation issued by the Civic Federation's workmen's compensation department, of which August Belmont is the head.

James O. Carter, representing the General Electric Company, said that the greatest deficiency in the present law is the requirement that payments shall be made through the Compensation Commission. He said that injured workmen and their families sometimes did not receive compensation until several months after employment was ended, although the employer was notified at once of the injury. He suggested direct payment from employer to employee, subject to approval of the Compensation Commission.

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