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The Importance of the A. F. L. Loyalty Resolution.

To many members of the American Federation of Labor a formal resolution of loyalty to America in the war, such as was adopted on Tuesday at its convention in Buffalo, undoubtedly seemed unnecessary. Conscious of their own devotion to the nation, and confident of the correct sentiment of their fellows, the proclamation of their support of the Government appealed to them as an act the omission of which would have resulted in no injury to the cause to which they give unquestioning allegiance. But the proponents of the declaration were better advised, and its unanimous adoption will have a heartening effect outside their organization that will be of the highest value.

German intriguants have been diligent in spreading among the ignorant and uninformed baseless allegations of disloyalty in every association in the country. Wherever an individual maliciously or stupidly opposing the course of the Government could be falsely cited as a representative of his fellows, German agents have called him as a witness against the patriotism of his colleagues. Careless words, or words spoken in moments of irritation, have been repeated as evidence of deep seated unrest among thousands of innocent persons, and whole societies have been pictured as seditious because one or two of their members have been misled, corrupted or lacking in judgment.

In the face of falsehoods of this kind an unnoted record of ceaseless endeavor in the nation's behalf is not remembered. Specifically, the splendid contributions made through its unnumbered agencies by labor to effective mobilization of national resources for war, contributions notable for the good will and unpretentious self-sacrifice that characterize them, may for a moment be obscured by sensational exploitation of errors committed by an isolated individual. Consequently, the formal exposition of the undaunted purpose of a great organization such as the American Federation of Labor, though not needed within the ranks of its members, is of the utmost usefulness in that it exposes and silences the traitors who, without obligation or responsibility to it, retail falsehoods concerning its sentiments and its purposes.

The War Charity Grafter.

The charity grafter is not a creature of the war. The soft hearted have always been the victims of knaves. No police and no private agency for the elimination of impostors have been able to clear the streets of solicitors who represented nothing more worthy than their own laziness and greed. The evil is as old as generosity, as difficult to eradicate as selfishness.

Naturally the war, with its stupendous charities, its unprecedented demands and opportunities, its amazing loosening of pocketbooks, has offered unheard of chances for the particularly mean creatures who fatten on the admirable impulses of the unsophisticated. Some of them have carried out their parasitic schemes alone on a modest scale; others have been more ambitious, and have not found it difficult to engage the thoughtless assistance of reputable citizens. The result is that many gifts, the aggregate sum of which cannot be accurately estimated, have gone astray. Their total is only a drop in the bucket of what has been given, but however small it may be it is too much.

President DOWLING's proposal that all entertainments whose proceeds are to go to charity, except those given under the auspices of incorporated religious or fraternal societies, shall be supervised by the Bureau of Licenses, would reach some of the thieves who are now operating practically without hindrance. It might work hardship on a few worthy enterprises, but this would be outweighed by the good it would accomplish; certainly it would check some of the more open frauds.

But the ultimate protection of the public does not lie in official intervention. The man who can give must be a policeman to guard his own philanthropy. He must give not only his money, but enough of his time to learn the character of the solicitor who importunes him for a contribution; he must find out not merely that he wants to help, but that the instrument presented to him will put his intention into effect.

By all means use every agency of the State to stop charity graft; but the most alert public official can never safeguard the man who is unwilling to help himself.

Smashing the Submarine.

The news regarding anti-submarine activities is as important as it is encouraging. Five submarines were destroyed in one day, says Mr. LLOYD GEORGE. And Washington has information of three destroyed in a day—another day, presumably, than Saturday, November 17, to which the Prime Minister referred.

London sends word that these results were attained not by new devices but by an elaborate campaign which has not yet been fully carried out. The greatest rate of destruction of U-boats is still to be reached.

Some weeks ago Mr. ARTHUR POLLEN, British naval authority, said that Germany was building about three submarines a week and that Allied effort was destroying about the same number weekly. If he was anywhere near right in his calculations the capture or sinking of U-boats has increased to an extraordinary extent and must far surpass Germany's rate of building them, however much that may have been speeded up.

Reports from the other side speak of the necessity said to be felt in Germany to alter completely the nature of the submarine campaign. The Germans are reported to be building much larger underwater vessels with a high surface speed—fifteen knots—and an enlarged cruising radius. With these we shall doubtless be able to deal, if necessary. They do not, from the circumstantial account, present any such superiority to the present U-boat as would foil the newest destroyers.

On the maintenance of regular and sufficient communication between this country and Europe the whole nature of the war hangs. The U-boat menace, though we have sometimes been dulled to its danger by constant familiarity, has always been the most momentous threat of the German power. We shall have to keep its peril in mind and have to keep hacking away at the Hydra's heads; but we have a right to exult a little if it develops that at last they are chopped off rather faster than they grow.

Goods, Services and Bonds.

Necessarily the greater part of the money furnished to the Government by the Liberty loans is advanced by the banks of the country for a period of some months.

The real success of the Liberty loans depends on the payment of our instalments on bond purchases. The instalments must be met fully and punctually by the overwhelming majority of us if the banking capital of the country is not to be tied up indefinitely in the bonds, and so be made unavailable for the needs of every day business.

In subscribing up to the limit of his saving power the American does but half of his patriotic duty in respect of Liberty bonds. The other half consists in paying his instalments on the nail, receiving his bonds and keeping them off the market.

He must not sell his bonds if he can possibly help it. It is far better for him to borrow on them temporarily. The Treasury has asked banks to lend as high as 90 per cent. of value on Liberty bonds. With such a loan value the bonds need seldom be sold to raise money.

The use of Liberty bonds as cash in payment for goods, while well intended, is not a practice to be encouraged, as bonds so transferred tend ultimately to find their way back to the banks. Keep the bonds away from the banks!

Suppose an American, unable to fight in the field, or perhaps in his daily work to make a direct contribution to winning the war, buys all the bonds he possibly can and pays for them and keeps them off the market. Does his duty stop there?

Certainly not! There is a complementary duty, of equal importance, which he must perform with the same unremitting zeal with which he lends his money to his country. This duty relates to "goods and services."

Goods and services are what actually fight. Bonds are but the mechanism by which goods and services are secured by the Government.

Goods—steel, copper, wool, foodstuffs; services—the labor of men in field and factory—are what the Government must have. Shall it confiscate the goods and commandeer the services of men, or shall it buy them? Of course it will buy them. It buys and pays, borrowing of its people and giving them its bonds as security for the repayment of what they lend.

But the bonds and the money lent will be unavailing if the Government cannot, for just compensation, buy the goods and engage the services it increasingly requires.

This it cannot do so long as the goods are consumed and the labor of men employed with peace time lavishness by the people of the country in entering to their wants as distinguished from their needs.

Therefore the American must not only lend to his Government; he must curtail his consumption, so that his lessened demands for goods and men's labor may release materials and workers for the Government's hire.

Enhanced saving of dollars to lend to the Government, diminished consumption of all kinds, are the complementary duties of Americans in time of war. The diminution of consumption must be effected in the matter of necessaries so that the Government may have a liberal supply, and in the matter of luxuries so that men and materials employed in the production of luxuries may be diverted to an enlarged production of the many things needful.

Whether a man earns $10 a week or $100 a week or $1,000 a week, there are a few simple things he is now called upon to do.

He must save in dollars distinctly more than he has been accustomed to save in normal years. He should put aside at least double his peace time savings. And by far the greater part of this doubled saving should go into the purchase of Liberty bonds, preferably by instalments.

The New Way to Volunteer.

Under the new regulations for the classification of men registered on June 5, 1917, a registered man may still volunteer for the army. Instead of going to the recruiting office he waives deferred classification in the questionnaire which will reach him some time after December 15. If he has dependents, however, they must join him in the waiver.

The effect of such a waiver is automatically to advance the volunteer to Class I., from which the next selection of men will be made for the National Army.

Registered men wishing to volunteer for the navy or the marine corps will be allowed to do so if not too far up on the district list.

These seem reasonable regulations. The National Army classifies all men received into it and so far as the requirements of its units allow assigns each man to the branch of his choice except when his special qualifications clearly fit him for some particular branch; but in that case the indicated branch is pretty certain to be the one he prefers.

Method comes first and accomplishes most in present day war.

Women "First Voters."

To analyze a "first voter" was in the dead past a light task for the politician. The man of 21 years, take him as a countrywide proposition, is unmarried; the odds are five to one on it. He has had no political guide except his father and the newspapers and the schools.

What of the new "first voter," the woman? Take a group of 100 American women of 21 years, and forty-three of them are married; have promised to love, honor and, in many cases, to obey. Not that the New York girls of 21 are the only "first voters." That phrase includes in this city nearly 700,000 women whose ages run from 21 to 101. Most women get married. In all this land there are probably not more than 1,500,000 old maids, including bachelor girls, women devoted utterly to their art, and plain spinsters.

The point is, however, that it is too late for the machine politicians to catch many of the women "first voters"; they have been caught, not by a Koenig or a Murphy, but by the celebrated Plain Gold Band Ring.

Gaze studiously upon any woman of voting age up to 44—which is as far as guessing should go—and four times out of five she is married. She has been housed with her Ethelbert for from one to twenty-five years, eating the food that he eats, reading the paper he reads, learning to laugh at his jokes, converting his taste in rugs to hers and her taste in pictures to his, taking his money and giving him 200 per cent. return on it. And now, when she is a "first voter," some persons appear to have a theory that Angela is going to go out and conspire with other "first voters" to wring Ethelbert's neck. It won't be done. It isn't history, ethics, biology, economy or art to say that it can happen. For every spinster who cries "Down with the Demon Man!" ten married women will say "Joe, how are you going to vote on the constitutional amendment providing for a seaside park in the Adirondacks?"

The figures are deadly, as any one with a desire for a headache may discover by consulting the census reports. Boil them down and they reveal the fact that while large numbers of male voters are abroad with no wives to guide them in political economy, few women of voting age are without a husband to advise them, at their own request, of the superiority of Candidate PATRICK J. GLAUBENBERG over Candidate CYRIL MCROCCI. It is no doubt horrifying, but it is mathematics.

Manifestly, something is wrong. If 43 per cent. of women are married at 21, and only 16 per cent. of men, a woman should be allowed to vote earlier than a man, say at 18, or she should cast two ballots to his one. No good husband would object to such a reform. Many of them would welcome a system by which Angela would do all the voting.

Another Triumph for the Airmen in France.

The official announcement of General BYNG's great attack on the German army between St. Quentin and the River Scarpe records the fact that "in each case the enemy was completely surprised." We are justified in concluding from this that in the territory affected the British possessed an overwhelming superiority in the air; the area covered by the offensive, as reported in the first bulletin, is thirty-five miles in length by five miles in depth in certain places, and even in the absence of intensive artillery preparation the military organizations necessary for such a tremendous stroke could not be assembled without arousing the enemy's vigilance had he been able to observe even a part of the troop movements behind General BYNG's line.

It has been impressed on us that no such operation against enemy positions as General BYNG directed could be successful under modern conditions without preliminary bombardment of the most vigorous description, to batter down the enemy trenches, clear the ground of wire entanglements and other obstructions, and prevent the coming up of enemy reenforcements. Yet the British made this notable advance, depending principally on tanks to level barbed wire defences "of great depth and strength," without the aid of the cannon as they have been used heretofore, and their success, as indicated by the early despatches, promises to be among the most important of those recorded for the Allies on the western front.

Plainly this success, the full significance of which cannot be judged from the necessarily fragmentary facts now at hand, was the result of a preponderance of aircraft on the British side and the information their operators gathered while keeping the Germans in ignorance of the British troop movements. It gives added testimony to the supreme importance of command of the air, and must spur the United States to increase its energy in the production of aircraft and the training of aviators.

BYNG! and several thousand Germans bit the dust.

Allen enemies are leaving Washington. Next we shall hear that German spies are abandoning New York.

Russians are turning against the Bolsheviki.—*Newspaper headline.*

Must a tortured world learn to spell and pronounce the name of another Russian faction?

Those who buy thrift stamps will not have to ask themselves: "Whither are we thrifting?"

Austria has formally inquired of Italy, through neutral representatives, whether Venice is fortified or not, according to a despatch from Vienna today.—*The news.*

Is it possible that Germany will permit her ally to observe the rules of civilized war?

A Memphis man has evolved a self-help grocery store to reduce the overhead. But he may succeed only in increasing the underhand.

In Russia KERENSKY's lenity has produced a menacing development of Leninety.

Austrians promise to spare Venice.—*Newspaper headline.*

But how about the Prussian partner?

Let us hope that the dispute now in progress in England over the degrees of enterprise shown by Great Britain and the United States, respectively, in the effort to win the war will spur both nations to redoubled endeavors, and not lead either to sulk in its tent.

If Attorney-General GREGORY is well informed, there will soon be a determined attempt to make democracy unsafe for traitors.

British soldiers and sailors of 19 are to be allowed to vote, under a statute just approved by the House of Commons. In certain districts of New York boys of this age were once accustomed to vote without waiting for the slow processes of the Legislature, but they would never have been called patriots.

Apparently the explanation of the often proclaimed failure of pupils to learn the three Rs in the public schools is to be found in the fact that so many instructors were busy teaching the Higher Criticism of the Government that supported them.

Enemy aliens are being put out of the District of Columbia so fast that the air of Washington will be comparatively pure by the time LA FOLLETTE returns.

General BYNG's folks should have named him BUFF instead of JULIAN.

THE GERMAN SPIRIT.

An Attempt to Explain the Psychology of Kultur.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The greatest obstacle the Allies contend against is their misunderstanding of German psychology.

Christian peoples like the Anglo-Saxons and Latins have had civilized out of them the love of conquest for conquest's sake. What wars they still wage are for utilitarian reasons. For them to bring themselves to the standpoint of regarding the Germans as an "ethicless" people wallowing in the sty of plenty, gorged but still greedy to gorge again, is almost impossible.

However, Germany is in just that state of superfed but insatiable appetite. Indeed, there must be a biological difference between her and the Christian world, for she still stands where the men of the Renaissance—men like the Medicis, the Cencis, the Estes—stood. She craves world dominion, and, like them, brooks no ethical inhibitions which she considers in the way of her success. Her Emperor and feudal lords await the moment in a sort of delirium of possessive anticipation when the earth shall have become the vassal or tool of their craving for power.

You can call Germany "mad." But there is so much method in her madness that it would be better to think of her as just retarded in her psychological development.

At any rate, Germany is savage in her methods and in her motives, and the sooner the Allies stop giving her the benefit of the doubt and regard her as just what she is, a brute nation, the better for society. She is and will be, until beaten and so brought one step further on toward what is termed "civilization" or the modern spirit—honor, beauty and equality, the personal, abstract and political aims of enlightened peoples—as ruthless as her science can show her how to be. Make no mistake about that. G. W.

NEW YORK, November 21.

MISLEADING STAMP BOOKS.

The Government Had No Time to Cancel the Incorrect Schedules.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My attention has been directed to the editorial article in THE SUN of November 12 headed "Voluntary Assistance to Postmaster-General Burleson," in which you state that the rate of letter postage has been changed.

Having immediate charge of the production and distribution of postage stamps, I may say that this fact was not unknown to me. It so happened, however, that considerable stocks of stamp books, the covers of which bore the former rate of postage, remained on hand when the new rate took effect. It is these books which have come to the notice of THE SUN.

Action has been taken to revise the information on the covers of new books to conform to the increased postage rate. It would be desirable if the old books outstanding could be recalled and replaced, but this would involve withdrawing the stocks of 55,000 post offices, numbering 13,940,000 books, at an estimated manufacture cost of $63,845. The Government would not be justified, I am confident you will agree, in wasting so much valuable material.

The principal difficulty, however, is the mechanical impossibility of producing quickly sufficient stamp books to replace such a vast number. The demand for these books is constantly increasing, the convenience which they afford being particularly appreciated by the soldiers in the cantonments and elsewhere, who purchase enormous quantities.

To correct any misapprehension occasioned by the continued use of these old stamp books, the Department has relied upon the wide publicity given the change in postage rates and the probability that the public would understand the reason why the old books were being used until new ones could be provided.

A. M. DOCKERY,
Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 21.

A boy with a rubber stamp might have cancelled the inaccurate "postage rates" in each office and prevented the confusion which has arisen. This course would have been followed in any private business house.

A CRITIC OF CRITICS.

Why Disparage Dramas That Are Clean, Wholesome and Normal?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As one of the army of average citizens whose patronage supports theatres, magazines and newspapers, I enter an indignant protest against the patronizing attitude of some of the writers of reviews about things artistic.

Many, many times I have found that plays which appeal to the public and that the people enjoy are assailed by these reviewers as "illiterate," "cheap," "tawdry," "low brow." Plays they have praised I have often found to be badly written, morbid, freakish, often positively indecent. It seems as though they were trying to establish a monopoly in brains—to set up an intellectual dictatorship, and dictatorships have no place in a republic.

It has been my experience that the plays the people like are the clean, wholesome, normal kind. I have seen such plays with crowded houses, the audiences composed of well dressed ladies and gentlemen as well as people who obviously were not of the well to do class. The plays must have succeeded, and yet I have read monthly and weekly reviews of these same plays that seemed deliberate insults to the intelligence of the public.

Not one of the writers I have ever been able to learn anything about had ever done anything himself. If this is ever said about any of them he hides behind the hen, saying: "I can't lay an egg, but I can tell when it is good." God help them! I think they really know very little and write with the idea of tickling each other. Only it is time you editors curbed them in their maddeningly patronizing attitude toward the public. L. B. R.

NEW YORK, November 21.

Two Good Plays.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As one who is most deeply concerned in the future of the American drama I have naturally followed the discussion which has recently made its appearance in THE SUN.

The star system came and is going. More and more the public demand a play, a backbone, a foundation upon which to build.

Managers will learn to their cost, if they so wish it, that there must be a play.

All the beauty with which Mr. Belasco surrounded "Little Lady in Blue" did not serve to save it from its inevitable fate.

"On Trial" simply had to win because there was the engrossing character of the story together with its novel presentation.

This season we have been favored with very few real plays, and it is my contention that the "feature" motion pictures with their cheap prices, cheap advertising and cheap method of production are still the real enemy to the assumption by the drama of its true place in our national life.

Shakespeare wrote, "The play's the thing!" and at present there are two that certainly should not be missed by any thinking playgoer; and there must be some of these left.

The plays are "Hamilton" and "The Gay Lord Quex." Each of these plays may be described as literature. Each has dramatic force and leads up to a climax, and each is exceedingly well done. I am confident that there is still a public for a good play well done.

ALFRED E. HENDERSON.

NEW YORK, November 21.

"FORE!"

A Name for the Statue Now About to Drive at the Post Office.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The man on top of the City Hall Park fountain is not a puzzle, nor is he knock-kneed, as "M." suggests. He is a golfer, posed in perfect stance. Being a patriot, he uses only one club so that his caddy may go to work in the shipyard.

The whole thing, base and all, suggests golf. The base is as white as a new ball. When the work is finished there will be a stymie between the Park Row pedestrian and the City Hall.

RAOUL MCSIMALIST.

THE NINETEENTH HOLE, November 21.

Life.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Making the best of it—
Labor, and rest of it;
Laugh at the jest of it—
Laugh while you may!
Tears, too, to reap of it!
Love's dream to keep of it;
Joy—and a heap of it—
You had, for a day!

WAR AND THE CAT.

Either Pass Should Justify Her Existence or It Should Be Ended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The time has now come for taxation of a kind and a severity to which Americans have been little accustomed; and the habits of a nation must be radically changed.

We must eat less and pay more. We must eliminate waste. Conservation of every national resource is urged and needed.

Destruction of the world's wealth through the wastage of war has reduced the purchasing power of the dollar to about two-thirds of what it was two or three years back, and it looks as though the shrinkage would go on and on.

Recently some publicity was given in your columns to the destructive power of rats and mice. The damage done by them each year in the United States was set at some $200,000,000, and estimates were made as to the size of the army of men necessary to produce the food which they destroyed. Apparently, however, those who are endeavoring to conserve the food resources of our country have overlooked a destructive force which, I venture to assert, is in no way less active or powerful and nearly as useless. I refer to household pets and have particular reference to cats.

Supposed to be the natural enemy of the rat, careful observation leads me to believe firmly that the cats who pay their way by the destruction of man's greatest economical enemy are so few as to be noteworthy, and that with the great majority of families which have cats in their households the cat is so well fed on food that is fit for human consumption that the incentive is lacking in them to fulfil the duty which is their sole excuse for existence. Consider the number of these animals in this country which are daily fed with good food from their masters' tables and one can readily see that thousands of tons of food which we and our allies need are wasted in the upkeep of an animal which is almost if not entirely useless.

Every hunter, every fisherman, every man or woman who loves to walk "cross country" through the woods and fields will remember the numerous cats which they have seen, sleek and well fed, yet prowling through the grass to satisfy their blood lust with killing man's best friends among the wild things—the insectivorous birds, the robins, the thrushes, the native sparrows and all such. Hardly a hunter but recognizes the destructive power of these wandering terrors to our wild life and gives them a load of number sixes if he is far enough away from the house to which the brutes evidently belong. The numbers of game birds as well as song birds which find their way into the stomachs of Grimalkin yearly if known would probably be so large as to be almost beyond belief. And so each year the farmer must spend more and more upon insecticides to rid himself of insect pests which form the natural food of our birds—those same birds which the cat is doing his level best yearly to decrease.

In an oak tree beside the house in which I live there has dwelt for several years a fine gray squirrel which became so tame that he would come to a whistle and sit in my wife's lap, and there with his plumy tail curled over his back, upright as a drum major, take a bit of apple or a peanut from her hand. To-day he was caught by a neighbor's cat, which was so well fed that he did not eat his prey, but left him lying on the lawn. I rather suspected that I saw tears in my wife's eyes when she met me at the door and told me that little Peter, as she had named the squirrel, was dead.

That same cat has to his discredit three robins this last summer alone; and I suspect there are many other birds that we know not of. Which is the better, a murderous cat, killing the most beautiful things God has given us, or these robins which from the treetops of early spring told us that the winter was over and that they were back to eat caterpillars and beetles from our gardens, to open the day with a song and to send it away at dusk with their vesper hymn?

Our neighbor's cat dines daily on the best of steak, or lamb, or fish, fresh from the family supply delivered by butcher and fish man. That meat would feed a half starved Belgian child, would put new life into some wan Serbian soldier fighting like us against the world enemy. In the eyes of God, which counts for the most, my neighbor's cat and your neighbor's cat, or the Belgian child, the Serbian soldier?

Tobacco, theatre tickets, almost every luxury is taxed that we may feed and clothe our soldiers and wage a righteous war. The greatest luxury and the most useless that we have, the house cat, is left unnoticed. Ask New York's own Dr. Hornaday what he thinks of puss as an economic enemy. He will tell you how never ending war is waged upon the cat up there in the Bronx Zoological Park in order that the birds may have at least one place where they are comparatively safe; and that constant vigilance is the price of that protection.

Let us tax the cat. Let us put upon her treacherous head a license fee so heavy that few will wish to keep her, that few can afford to pay it. Traps and poison will destroy many more mice and rats than she will, and the birds, natural friends of man, with their constant battle against the plant eating insects, will make it easier to raise the food for which the whole world seems to be crying. And, in addition, good food will do that for which it was produced, feed mankind, not useless four footed brutes. ALLEN.

EAST ORANGE, N. J., November 21.

KEEPSAKES FOR UNCLE SAM.

Ready to Lend Nautical Instruments That Can Hardly Be Sold.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I note in THE SUN news that there is a shortage of nautical instruments and binoculars to equip the large number of additional vessels that are being put in commission.

I believe that there are persons like myself who would not care to give these articles away or sell them, but who would be glad to lend them either to the Government or to responsible shipowners with the understanding that they be returned after the war, if not lost through the fortunes of war.

The articles which I have are the only mementoes that I have of my father, who was lost at sea. Consequently, I would prefer to have them used with the possibility that they might be returned to me. CLIFFORD P. WICKS.

STAMFORD, Conn., November 21.

Graphic Biographic War Poem.

Byng.
Bing!

Effects of War.

Knicker—Broadway is darkened.
Bocker—Easy street is also dimmed.

GERMANY NOT LIKELY TO BE STARVED INTO SUBMISSION.

Precise Details of Her Food Supply Indicate That German Rations Are Not So Desperately Poor as Has Been Supposed.

There are signs that it will soon be possible to deduce the food competence of Germany from first hand knowledge. Hitherto the difficulty has been to get definite information. The *British Medical Journal* recently published a leading article on the rations of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey, which it revises this week in an editorial note: "We are now able to give some additional and more precise details in regard to the ration of bread and potatoes in Germany. The Imperial bread ration in Germany is 2,000 grams a week; that is to say 285 grams a day. In Berlin it is 1,950 grams a week (278 grams a day), in Hamburg 1,600 grams a week, in Essen 2,000 grams a week. Bread grain is milled up to 94 per cent. The Imperial potato ration is 3,500 grams a week, or 500 grams a day."

These facts are of great significance. They are precise and authentic, as are the following, stated by the same high authority: During October the potato ration dropped slightly. In Germany it was 450 grams a day, in Austria 1,000, while in Holland it was 3,000 grams. If these rations are translated into ordinary language the layman will get a clearer notion of their meaning. Those who know what a gram is will understand that 450 grams is about 15 ounces, which is the average daily portion of the German adult, for children and babies have other allowances. Now the food value of six ounces of potato or an ordinary helping is 155 calories, so that the October ration gave each German a "portion" of potatoes at each meal. The food value of three ounces of bread, an ordinary allowance at a mixed meal, is 222 calories.

So far the German ration is satisfactory though meagre. It is in meat and fat that it shows a decided leak. The meat ration has fallen to 250 grams, or about eight ounces a week. In Holland the meat ration is even lower, being 200 grams a week. It is stated that these are the weekly rations and that extreme tenuity may be realized when they are contrasted with the voluntary meat ration in Great Britain, which is now 1,130 grams a week. In regard to fat the case is still worse. In Germany fat is rationed to 90 grams a week, in Austria to 120 and in Holland to 50. These are maximum amounts in three countries that are all within the ring fence of the blockade. These figures may be considered accurate, as a glance at other reports will show. Thus the *Figaro* of October 31, in an article on the German rations of that month, says that the situation as regards potatoes and beet sugar is good. These are two staple foodstuffs.

The truth about the German food position may be gathered from a reading of the Scandinavian press, particularly the Swedish. Taking papers that cannot be called pro-German, the *Social Demokraten*, for example, and the *Göteborgs Handels Tidning*, the careful inquirer finds that a comparison of the weight of bread allowed in countries rationed compulsorily or voluntarily shows that the differences are not very great, whether the nation is belligerent or neutral. Expressed in grams the weight is: In Germany, 280 grams a day; in Austria, 280; in Switzerland, 250; in Holland, 254; in Denmark, 315; in Sweden, 260; in France and Italy, 250, and in Great Britain, 259.

The exceptions among belligerent countries are Bulgaria and Turkey; in the former the weight of bread allowed daily is said to be as high as 500 grams, and in Turkey as low as 160, but the potato is not much used in Bulgaria, and probably more rice is consumed by the Turks than by other nations of Europe. French authorities are now recommending the more general use of rice. A few countries or States appear to have no rations. The position in Finland, for example, must be exceedingly grave as a long leading article in the Helsingfors *Hufvudstadsbladet* shows. The picture is dark, but unluckily no rations in figures are given, and the impression is therefore vague.

Can anybody say why and from what point of view the food ration of Germany is starvation? Americans believe that Germany will be reduced in this way, but the Teuton newspapers boast that Germany produces four-fifths of what she consumes. The meat and fat ration is insufficient, but trade notices in the *Social Demokraten* and other papers show that she is getting herring and mackerel, which are nutritious substitutes for meat, and marmalade, coffee substitutes, bacon, lard and butter. Germany produces a great deal of nutritious food in the form of cabbage, rye, lentils and turnips. The fact is that one of the most costly errors made by the public in Allied countries has been the underrating of the food resources of the Central Powers.

Food rations in Germany have changed from time to time; they are subject to-day to local changes; one town has different rations from another, while the rural population is probably better fed than the urban; and lastly, charitable organizations have done much in the case of children and the poor. Propaganda has also obscured the situation. In the United States, before we entered the war, many people founded their estimates of German food on figures supplied them by German agents. Other mistakes were made by clever theorists who were regarded as food experts. In the first years of the war these experts published calculations which proved that the German food supply must vanish from their tables in the course of a few months. These figures have been deceptive because the experts failed to reckon with the simple fact that a large amount of food reached Germany from neutral and conquered countries.

It is noteworthy that writers on the Teuton food resources who derive their information chiefly from public lectures or tables of calories believe that hunger will bring on revolution or peace, while those whose chief acquaintance is with Germans and German life are reserved in their opinions. Americans who have just returned from Switzerland after fifteen years in Berlin and other towns, who have inner sources of information or practical intimacy with the position in Germany, do not take the easy view. They speak of unsatisfied appetites of grievous restrictions, but they speak, for example, of new hotels on the scale of the Ritz and the Carlton Syndicates which are building such places must have some good reason for the expenditure. It is true that in these Kaiserhofs one piece of butter is allowed a day, but the menu is sufficiently stocked with caviare and kultur. Moreover, many people are particularly Germans, eat too much and are really better on rations. Theories and calories do not count in actual tests.

Upon these theoretical considerations, and upon stock phrases published by public lecturers, rests the whole structure of that food fallacy which made so many English and Americans think that Germany was devouring her last sea gull and rabbit. A great portion of the American public is probably still under the impression that a shortage of fat and meat will soon bring the German Government to terms. It is a plausible and popular way of looking at the matter, yet it is utterly fallacious. An English writer stated recently Germany has had three years experience of rations and bread and meat cards. This is an advantage. The way to beat her is to tighten the blockade and speed up the army. This is the practical lesson of the food position.

ALIENS AND ENEMIES.

The Time for Fine Legal Distinctions Has Passed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Legal quibblers may find consolation in the fact that just because no declaration of war has been made by us against Austria-Hungary there is no technical reason by which alien Austrians who are suspected of hostility to our country should be excluded from our water fronts and from factories where ammunition is being made for us and our allies.

But the people of this country whose boys, husbands and relatives are in France or crossing the ocean to help put down a barbarous enemy of civilization will fail to appreciate any fine legal distinction that endangers our cause by its likelihood of killing our soldiers and destroying our food and ammunition. To them it is blessed with only about as much sense as Nero fiddling while Rome burned to hold that an alien Austrian suspect is in any different position from an alien German suspect.

It is no time for fine legal technicalities when danger to our very existence is imminent, and all such hair splitting distinctions as "we are not at war with Austria-Hungary" should be laughed out of court and immediate action taken against all who endanger our safety and the safety of our allies.

It is no answer that workmen are needed; far better to do less work than to have what we do destroyed and American life endangered.

These enemy aliens needn't be permitted to loaf in internment camps at our expense, either; they should be put to work on farms, as Americans would be by our enemies under like conditions and with far less provocation.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., November 21.

A Dog That Died.

High on the hill where heather bloomed,
And wide trees waved their bannered boughs,
I chose for him to be entombed
Until the final call shall rouse.

And when that trumpet call shall come,
Then will he guard me, well I know,
As soldier to the rolling drum
Responding stanch to face the foe.

Those grave deep eyes that vainly sought
To tell such love as heart enfolds
Will still seek mine, and they have taught
Their master much of faith he holds.

And if the souls of simple worth,
Indifferently of man and beast,
Are destined for the great rebirth,
He will appear then not the least.

MAURICE MORRIS.

ON GUARD!

The Time Has Come for an Exhibition of Undiluted Americanism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Stanley of Holyoke is right. There are more of those dirty German spies downtown than any one has any idea of, and they are going around arrogantly sneering at the inertia of the United States authorities. They aren't to my taste, and that right quick. The hardships that our boys are undergoing on the other side. It is sad to think of the few desolate homes with sons already missing; the "few" will change to "many" soon, and here we have these devils basking in comfort, and to the eternal shame of some Americans they are actually employed in not only getting down to the truth as to what are being aided by those Americans. It is a shame. Does this not amount to a contravention of the law against aiding the enemy?

Let the Kreislers, Muchs, et al., go to the devil. They only come here for our dollars. They scoff at everything American. All honor to Prof. Timme, Sewickley, Pa.

Let us be all Americans and no lot of white livered apologists. Stand ready to that, so we might get rid of the job. JAMES M. [illegible]

New York, November 21.

A HEAVY "ADVANCE SALE."

The Box Office Had Only the Thirteenth Row Four Weeks Ahead.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read with unusual interest a letter written to you by Mr. Wallace, son of Scranton, Pa. [illegible] nothing compared with [illegible] Friday afternoon.

I went to the Cohan and Harris theatre on West Forty-second [illegible] asked for two seats in the [illegible] Saturday evening, and was [illegible] were all sold out. I then [illegible] seats in the orchestra for [illegible] ning, December 8, and was [illegible] that the best they had was [illegible] teenth row.

I said to the man at the [illegible] "Why, you haven't turned [illegible] over to the speculators [illegible] you?" and he replied, "No, [illegible] speculators have control."

Now, can any one beat [illegible] as a matter of comment [illegible] speculators are getting [illegible] those seats which should [illegible] offer for $2.50.

H. G. [illegible]

New York, November 21.