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National Chairman Hays Indicates Republican Harmony.

The Republican party can congratulate itself on the happy outcome of the contest for chairman of the Republican National Committee. Will H. Hays, the new head of the national organization, is young, vigorous and popular. While a strong party man, his views are enlightened and liberal. In his political activities in Indiana, where every man is more or less a pretty fair politician, he has shown a remarkable capacity for organization. His work in solidifying his faction into a party in 1910, with the State so completely restored to Republicanism that it not only gave its electoral vote to Hoover but retired two Democratic Senators, made him a conspicuous national figure which could not be disregarded in any plans and programmes for 1920.

But the striking significance of the choice of Hays is the unanimous vote for him after a thorough canvass of the other candidates, particularly JOHN T. ADAMS of Iowa. It may have been Mr. ADAMS's letter on the Germans, written in August, 1914, long before we were in the war, and so effectively employed in February, 1918, by the resourceful and able Mr. PERKINS, which defeated ADAMS and elected Hays. But it must have been the full realization by the members of the committee that the way to win battles is to be united which made him their unanimous choice.

If the National Committee reflects the Republican States of the country, as it is fair to assume that it does, the party is united for the first time in years, for it was inharmonious not merely in 1916 and 1912; it had begun to divide before 1910. The Republican party does not always lose when some of its elements are wrangling among themselves; but it never fails to win when they pull together.

The Lesson of the Washington's Birthday Parade.

It is peculiarly appropriate that the National Army should parade here and in other cities of the country on the anniversary of WASHINGTON'S birth. The National Army represents effective preparedness, and GEORGE WASHINGTON was the apostle of effective preparedness throughout the whole period of his useful life. In phrases that have come down to us unimpaired in vigor and wisdom through the generations that have succeeded him WASHINGTON urged his fellow countrymen to set up and maintain a military establishment that should be capable of defending them and their liberties from attack no matter what its source or inspiration might be.

A lover of peace, WASHINGTON recognized the necessity of safeguarding it by deeds and the folly of depending on good intentions and fair words for the enforcement of natural rights. His wise advice has never been followed by his country; had it been and had the United States been armed as it should and might have been four years ago it is possible that the conflict in which we are now engaged might have been avoided. But that conflict having come upon us we can do no better than to repair the errors of the past and acknowledge the sagacity of the man who saw clearly the sure means of our preservation and brought us to provide against the dangers of the future by preparing in time of peace for war.

When on Friday of next week the soldiers of the National Army pass before millions of their fellow citizens, the display will have accomplished comparatively little if it only stirs enthusiasm for the men who have been called to the colors and for their instructors. The spectacle should confirm in every mind the determination that never again shall the United States be permitted to fall into the enfeebled condition in which for years it existed, and from which we are now struggling to extricate it.

Changes in Our Military Education.

Commanders of divisional camps have been instructed by the War Department to designate for appointment to West Point cadets from among those records indicate a special aptitude for military careers. This is in pursuance of an act recently passed

by Congress to increase the attendance at the Military Academy. The original provisions of the act have been changed, however, in order to include besides privates in the Regular Army and National Guard men of the National Army.

The Government intends to utilize to the fullest the facilities of the Military Academy for developing commanders of our military forces. The appropriations for new buildings at West Point and the increase of the capacity of the Academy to nearly double what it was before were some of the first steps in this direction. These were followed by the act changing the methods of selection of cadets, providing for the appointment of cadets at large and giving to the President the option of naming honor cadets from other military schools. Extension of eligibility for appointment to privates was also provided as offering an incentive to men in the ranks.

In the past Congressmen, especially in the North and West, have found considerable difficulty in finding desirable candidates for appointment. The discipline was severe, the course hard for youths without an aptitude for mathematics, and the promotions were slow. As a result in the '80s and '90s the attendance was scarcely more than 200 or 300, and at one time even dropped as low as 184.

Under the new arrangements the classes are entering with a number in excess of the entire attendance in those days. In 1884 the graduating class numbered only 37. Last year there were graduated in April 139 and at the second graduation exercises in August 152. During the year 291 cadets thus stepped from the classroom into actual warfare.

The Superintendent of the Academy reports that the institution will be able to care for from 1,200 to 1,300 cadets. This increases the corps to the peace strength of a regiment and brings annually into the service about 300 West Pointers. There have been at the same time a number of valuable changes introduced which are intended to give a more practical turn to the education of officers. There is a tendency, too, to depend for special training in the various branches of the service upon the different post-graduate schools in artillery, infantry and cavalry. More attention also will be given in the future to the development of the aviation branch of the army. For the present at least the course will be shortened by the elimination of cultural studies and the intensification of military studies.

The war has brought an entirely new appreciation of this famous old institution. It will do away with much that the modern soldier does not require and will introduce much that is new and necessary to the thorough development of the nation's military resources.

The Airplane Mail Service.

Postmaster-General BULLOCK'S plan for aerial postal service between New York and Washington provides for one flight in each direction daily by machines capable of making the distance in three hours with a stop at Philadelphia and carrying 300 pounds of mail. The time consumed by railroad trains on this trip under normal conditions is about five and a half hours, but the transportation difficulties now make the railroad schedule unclassifiable.

Heavy first class mail runs about twenty-eight packages to the pound and the lighter packages about fifty to the pound. In mixed mail it is safe to count on forty-two packages to the pound. The airplane mail carrier will be able to transport about 12,000 pieces on each trip. If these are charged for at the rate of 25 cents an ounce with 25 cents as the minimum charge the revenues would be at least \$3,000 a trip if only commercial mail is handled. There will be a great deal of Government mail, however, which being carried free will reduce the receipts, but unless the service is abused by the Government departments it should be highly profitable to the Government.

The Department does not expect that the new service will be utilized to its full capacity on every trip. In this it is likely to be disappointed. The public has eagerly availed itself of every improvement in the postal service. There is normally a tremendous volume of mail passing between Washington and this city, and this has been vastly increased by war correspondence. A large proportion of this business is of a nature requiring the utmost speed in its handling, and should the airplane mail carriers prove trustworthy there is no reason to believe they will lack patronage.

High and Low Riability.

Back in the days of the excellent DERNBURG propaganda fire of the German lie batteries was badly demoralized by defective preliminary study of our mental atmosphere. To be sure, we were "idiotic Yankees," Vox Populi scolded that. But it distinctly was not a case of low-riability here. On the contrary, our own line of riability was high. Perhaps too high, but at all events high.

Yet the line above which a lie promotes hilarity and below which it becomes merely an insult to the intelligence of those expected to believe it was never very clear in the German mind. The consequence was that the efforts of the early propagandists here resulted in joyous laughter alternated with anger, moderate or violent, in proportion to the individual's keener or blunter sense of humor. These were depressing days at the best, and the elephantine gambols of the propagandists of the DERNBURG were rather welcomed as an amusing diversion from the strain of serious matters.

lower riability. At all events, the propagandists efforts among our southern neighbors of Mexico and Colombia would seem to indicate that such at least is the German assumption. Nothing less than an assumption of riability low to utter obliteration would account for the publication in the *El Nuevo Tiempo*, a Colombian newspaper, of that preposterous yarn about the Japanese insult to the United States in the Panama Canal.

A Japanese vessel "accompanied by two frigates," this fable asserts, entered the canal refusing to fly either the Colombian flag of port entry or the United States flag. The ground that the territory was Colombian and not United States; that, still defying Uncle Sam, coal was demanded and obtained, and we did not "answer the outrage and defiance to the nation," but swallowed both and delivered the coal.

Accompanying the yarn is the statement that such stories are accepted and believed and are doing "untold damage to the United States and the Allies." Admitting low riability or no riability in Colombia, there surely is a zone even there wherein lies can be a sufficient insult to Colombian intelligence.

Rumania Faithful to the Allied Cause.

The Rumanian Minister at Washington, DR. CONSTANTIN ANGOLASCA, has received from his Government the assurance that Rumania "will survive or perish with the Allied cause." The attempt of the Central Powers to force Rumania into a separate peace was another effort to add to the series of humiliations to which that nation has been subjected. It followed as a result of the armistice which the Rumanian army was compelled to accept under Bolshevik pressure and the threat of the Petrograd Government to hold the Rumanian King as hostage until his soldiers had withdrawn their opposition to this arrangement.

The German method of forcing their terms was much the same as was employed to drag the country unprepared and illly equipped into the war. Berlin sent an ultimatum to the temporary capital at Jassy demanding that Rumania accede to the German peace terms within twenty-four hours. Boris STRUKAMA, the Russian Premier, sent a similar ultimatum to the Rumanian Government in 1916, demanding its participation in the war within forty-eight hours and threatening a Russian invasion. He promised the support and assistance of Russia if Rumania acquiesced.

Disclosures made at the state trials in Russia showed that STRUKAMA was working entirely in the interest of Germany and with the complete connivance and cooperation of Berlin. The arms and munitions of war sent by the Allies to Rumania were diverted from their course and most of them eventually fell into German hands. Instead of cooperating with the Rumanians in the Carpathians STRUKAMA revealed all their campaign plans to the Austro-German commanders. His treachery brought better results than even Berlin had expected. The Rumanian army fell an easy victim to the superior force sent against it. The Rumanian kingdom was quickly overrun by the Germans, Austrians and Bulgars. It is the final reward in this wretched transaction with STRUKAMA that the Germans are now endeavoring to exact.

Rumania through her adversity has shown courage and valor. Practically surrounded by her enemies, DR. ANGOLASCA says she "disdainfully ignored" the German demands and threats. Her determination to remain faithful to the Allied cause is thoroughly in accord with her past heroism. It is one of the unfortunate situations of the war that the Entente Powers are unable to aid her in her present extremity.

No Peace Without Victory for the Kaiser.

In any conflict it is of first importance to know what you are fighting for. The first step toward that end is to realize what it is that you are fighting against. In the present instance the German Emperor has once more done the world a sterling service by providing that indispensable information in a few naked words:

"We desire to live in friendship with neighboring peoples, but the victory of German arms must first be recognized."

This is the fiat of the man whose will plunged the world into this welter of blood. No peace by agreement for him; no meeting the enemy half way; no peace without victory. He makes his meaning more distinct by reference to the treaty of peace just signed with the Ukraine. He declares that that now born republic, "beaten by our armies, perceives no reason for fighting longer." There is no hint of magnanimity there. He sees only a beaten enemy crawling to his knees for mercy.

That is what we have to fight, unless and until the German people shall take the matter into their own hands and repudiate the blood and iron programme of their blasphemous master.

The Value of Public Scrutiny.

The desirability of public scrutiny of the acts of administrative officials in a democratic government can be easily proved by a priori reasoning and the rules of logic. But it is gratifying when a clear demonstration of the fact appears in actual practice. Such a practical demonstration is before us now.

demand for a War Cabinet has been met by the President with a proposal for the extension of his powers over the organization of executive departments and the distribution of administrative functions. Of the soundness of this plan it is not necessary just now to enter into discussion. The significant fact is that the making of the proposal discloses on the part of Mr. Wilson a sensitiveness to public opinion and a readiness to profit by the results of the scrutiny of his acts even when made by those not of his own household.

The movement in Congress for the establishment of a Department of Munitions has also been met by the Administration, not with mere opposition, but with the promise of a prompt and thoroughgoing reorganization of the machinery of the War Department. Whether it is the best plan of reconstruction that could be devised is again beside the point. The fact that it is now being put into effect demonstrates an openness of mind and a receptiveness to new ideas which are reassuring.

It would doubtless be contended by some more ardent partisans that these administrative readjustments are not significant in the sense which we have suggested. But we do not believe that Mr. Wilson himself would deny some part at least of the service which the searching scrutiny of the prosecution of the war has rendered in the improvement of the nation's war machinery. Certainly no impartial observer—if such there be in a people so wedded to partisanship—could fail to discern in the close relation in time of the critical comment and the reconstructive act something of cause and effect. In the words of Horatio, "Indeed, my lord, I followed hard upon."

New Jersey's Legislature has passed a compulsory employment bill, designed to extract useful labor from all able bodied men not productively employed. The war has made the way of the loafer hard in the land.

We fear this spy folly (spy hunting in the United States) has made life hard for many brave Germans.—*The Weiser Zeitung.*

Incidentally, it has saved the lives of many brave Americans; but this does not appeal to the sympathies of Kultur.

So far as invading Switzerland is concerned there can be no doubt that Germany has the ability, the desire and the immorality to do the deed. It is not the lack of any of these that stops her.

Woman 39 years old will knit sweater. Some of the younger set of knitters had fair to be 39 before they finish their first sweater.

VIRILITY AND VOTES.

An Anti-Suffragist Pokes Fun at Miss Rankin's Plea.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: From the stress and strain of trench life, from the horrors of the battle field and from the weariness of camp life, the soldier is bid to turn to the diversions and amusements provided for him by the willing women of the Y. M. C. A., lest his task crush him to the ground. And the anti-suffragist, worn with the strain of defending suffrage amendment, one day which would fall upon it should the woman suffragists succeed in putting man and woman in the wrong relation to each other, and fixing them in it by law, may turn for refreshment from the stress and strain of her weary task to enjoy for a moment the diversions provided her, though unwittingly and undesignedly, by her opponents.

To Miss Rankin, the first woman member of Congress, was awarded the honor of the first speech in the debate on the woman suffrage amendment. She was only shall be selected from this speech to bring a smile of amusement to our weary world. She is reported to have said, "It would be strange if the influence of women through direct participation in political struggles through which all social and industrial development proceeds would not lend a certain virility . . . to the exhausting effort we are now making to meet the problem before us."

Suffragists have often pleaded for the vote, asserting the need of the mother "to go out from her home to get pure food for her children or to make the streets safe for her children." Never before have they asserted that the mother needed to be put into the Government in order to make it more manly. The plea is as novel as it is startling.

"Conjecture seeks the grounds on which our first Congresswoman founded her reasons for this strange expectation. Was that in the last few years it was necessary twice in the last few years to call upon the Federal troops to suppress riot and prevent bloodshed? Was it in the thrilling words of her first maiden speech, "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war"? Was it perhaps in visions of our modern women tripping through our busy streets in pointed toe, high heeled shoes, with a rosy "camouflage" on their cheeks, or in it possible that the many manners of the pertinacious picketers (whose picketing suddenly and mysteriously ceased) suggested the belief that the entrance of woman into the Government was needed to enhance its virility?

There is no hint that the men Representatives resented this imputation on their manhood, and from the following vote it is open to suspicion that this exhibition of suffrage logic removed from their minds any lingering fears they might have had that woman's participation in our affairs would deprive her of her inexhaustible feminine charm of delightful unreasonableness. For it does not really desire logic in a woman. It would deprive him of his pet joke. Miss Rankin is requested to be pleased to accept a tribute of gratitude for her contribution of meritment at a grim hour of the world's history.

A SEAGOER'S DIARY.

January 1. Decided to go to Cuba. 2. Bought a guide book of Havana. 3. Borrowed a Spanish dictionary. 4. Called at the steamship office and got folders entitled "The Cute Caribbean" and "Why Columbus Left Home." Was told that I must have a passport.

5. Went to the passport office of the State Department, where a young man gave me a blank to fill out. Spent the day at the Public Library trying to find out whether the captain of the ship on which my grandfather left the States was smooth shaven or otherwise.

6. Returned to the passport office with a bold look and declared that, referring to blank space No. 31, I could not get a certificate of my birth for the reason that Tomahawk, Wis., had no records. Spent the day at the Grant Administration. The young man told me to get a letter from the family doctor. I suggested that the doctor, if alive, would now be 104 years old. The clerk said that would not matter if his general character was good. He then warned up and told me that an affidavit from a relative, any old relative—no slang intended—would do.

7. Induced my brother to swear that I was born in Tomahawk, according to general gossip in the '70s, and that I never had energy enough to change my identity.

8. Went triumphantly to the passport office, where I was told to get three photographs of myself and two of my wife. The photographer would not let me pose as I wished, with my head resting in my cupped hand and my eyes directed at the camera. He sat me up straight, made me look at his dark forehead—canaries are no longer in vogue in studios—and so snapped me that my picture looks like a weak imitation of Paper Collar Joe mugged by force of arms. When my wife's picture was taken she was an hour and a half and made me promise to buy her a mantilla.

9. Went triumphantly to the passport office and was told that Washington had shut off all pleasure travel. 10. Ruthlessly abandoned all ideas of visiting Havana, Cuba, and St. Domingo, and went to the office to get a passport for the Hawaiian Islands. The Hawaiian Islands are in the Pores of Inanelepe Leaves After Twilight.

11. Went triumphantly to the passport office and was told that I must have a witness who will certify to all my statements. Spent the day making Joe Silo remember that he had known me since the Dewey parade and that pineapple leaves have been the one great passion of my life.

12. Went humbly to the passport office with Joe, and we swore heartily while Reddy, the Blackie, sat in the chair which I intended to say Joe Luncheon was taken from me by the Government and pinned to my application. Thus democracy conserves food.

13. Got my passport from Washington. It is a beautiful thing, barring the stamp of the State Department on the face of the sheet, my wife's on the back, but she seems not to care.

14. Spent evenings with friends who offered to introduce me to the captains, stewards, waiters, heliboys, stevedores and cabinmen of all ships ranging from the *Castles* to the *Galzila* on hearing that my wife's captain has never heard the story about not doing anything until Martin comes.

February 1. Was informed by the steamship office that the *Galzila* does not run to Havana any more. Will go to the office to see if I can get a ticket on the *Castles*. The office of friends, who insist that I would be better to take some other ship, even if it does not go to a haunt of the pineapple.

2-9. Spent evenings with acquaintances, who variously advised me not to go to Havana, Cuba, St. Domingo, or the Squirrel, not to eat Moorish crabs at all, to eat nothing but Moorish crabs, to take our food with us, to eat no breakfast in the tropics, and to eat nothing but breakfast. My wife is beginning to look like the passport photograph.

10-11. Spent evenings getting guide books, notebooks and the like ready. 12. Read that the Government has decided that no person going in or out of America shall carry any books or writings. Friend telephones me that my trunk contains a book, a folder, a map, a book of the Mazooma and who said that the captain put him off the quarterdeck. Wife announces that the Government, forbidding adhesions on ship or pier, has spoiled all her friends' plans. My trunk is packed in Spain, maybe I am getting ready to go. How did Columbus ever get away from Huelva?

FARM LABOR.

An Investigator Finds It Lacking in All the Eastern States. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: A matter for the serious consideration of the officials is the exemption of farm labor from the draft. It should be exempt as a class. The production of crops and the raising of live stock to produce meat is the first line of defense.

The raising of live stock is a problem in itself and necessarily is a great extent increase. Hitherto statements have been made by officers in Washington and in different States, which were ridiculed by the public press, "that the farmers could be helped out by school boys, high school boys, college boys and women" in the work of the farm. You can imagine my surprise when I returned to Maine and Texas on the subject and they will all tell you, as Mr. Paul T. Brady was quoted in your article of February 3, that these boys are worse than useless and are a nuisance.

Farmers' wives and daughters are not fitted to do farm work. It is such heavy work that the strength of a full grown man is required in all branches of it, and every farmer's wife already has more work in the house than she can take care of.

I have travelled all over the Eastern States, down the Atlantic coast to Louisiana and then through the States east of the Mississippi and on to New York during the summer last past. The journey was one of observation and investigation, and one of the subjects of my investigation was the question of farm labor. I found in every State, from Massachusetts to Louisiana and up through the States east of the Mississippi, a serious shortage of farm labor. Labor was not then on the farms as it is to-day, and there is less labor on the farms now than there was then, by reason of the draft for the first increment of the new army and by reason of some of the laborers having left to enter the employ of the War Industries.

Referring to the State of New York particularly, I am familiar with the larger part of it, and am acquainted with the local conditions practically every farm between New York city and Albany, east of the Hudson River. In this section in the fall of 1917 the shortage of farm labor was appalling. There was practically no available farm labor. I know of one man owning over 400 acres of land with no help whatever and it was impossible for him to obtain labor. Because of this, he could not and did not plant any wheat, and he should have planted a large acreage.

Another man who owns 516 acres and no farm labor and he could not and did not plant any wheat. These two farmers are examples of the many between New York and Albany.

The farmers all over the United States responded to the appeal of the Government to increase their crops, and the first result of their increased acreage is that a large percentage of them found their balance on the wrong side of the ledger.

They did not complain, but my observation is that in 1918 there will not be the effort made by the farmer to increase his acreage again for the reason that no labor is available to plant and harvest it at maturity. The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Houston, is quoted as saying that "the farmers should plant more crops and should send their sons to the front to fight." Will Washington ever understand actual conditions? If so, when? If it does not immediately come to the rescue of the country by exempting experienced farm labor from the draft, the people of the United States will suffer more in the winter of 1918 and 1919 than they have ever imagined possible.

I know of a farmer with 600 acres of land, a producer of large crops and in the dairy business with 125 cows, whose position can well be imagined when his second draft takes four out of nine of his men. When they are gone he is left not only their places owing to the scarcity of labor. AGRICULTURE.

TAMPA, Fla., February 11.

IN HELMOLD'S DRUG STORE.

Recollections of One Who Saw the Blondes Bay Their Blondness. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In the reminiscences of New York that have excited so much pleasurable interest among the readers of THE SUN there is no mention of a place that was one of the best known among the Broadway institutions of the day. This was Helmhold's drug store at 154 Broadway, near the door of the Metropolitan Hotel, adjoining Niblo's Garden and opposite the hall of the San Francisco Minstrels. The Theatre Comique was two blocks below and Fox's Olympic was one block above. Harry Felter's wine room, mentioned by Ed Mott, was near by at Broadway and Prince street, while Reddy, the Blackie, sat in the chair in the same direction to the other extreme of society at Houston street. Harry Hill's was also around the corner on Houston street. The House of Lords and the House of Commons were places which a prohibitionist writing to THE SUN the other day called the "Beerage."

From the character of the events that served at the helm of the night more properly be said to be dispensed to the sally. Florence's was a sporting place frequented by gentlemen who looked like ministers or actors but who were in reality professional gamblers, while at Charley Haifa's a stone's throw away, gathered the literati of the day in his basement near the Winter Garden.

Some one complained of the new singing at the Minstrels of Alice Dunning. This must have referred to Alice Dunning Lincoln, known as Alice Dunning Lingard, who with her sister, Dickie Lingard, was the chief attraction in "Pluto," an English burlesque, then playing in connection with Lingard's "Castles" fame. "Walking Down Broadway" fame Lingard was the first of the lightning change artists who afterward became so popular. One of the characters in "Pluto" was never allowed to recite his opening lines alone after the first night. Ever afterward his appearance was the signal for a shout from the gallery. "My name is Charles Helmhold" was the first drug store in New York to keep open all night, and here gathered many of the theatrical celebrities after the midnight hour and also during the day.

THE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS AT THE FRONT.

Medical Experts Find the Disease Not So Prevalent as Had Been Supposed, and Are Able to Diagnose It on Sight.

It is generally believed that the abnormal conditions created by the sudden mobilization of troops during the early days of the war favored the spread of tuberculosis, notably in France, which country was compelled to send into the field a great number of unseasoned men. While this may be so, there have been placed within the reach of French surgeons unique opportunities for careful studies, and for the consideration of the question how best they might adapt themselves to the war status and problems. These opportunities have lately been grasped to the fullest degree, and they tend to prove that tuberculosis has by no means been so prevalent as had been public supposed. But in the interest of medical development and research, and in the interests of the soldier, the military authorities have become convinced of the disadvantages from which the army has suffered through lack of inspection. Steps have been taken to supply the deficiency, and latterly the question of tuberculosis has received from the experts the attention which it deserves. The result is that France stands in a much more favorable position than she did in August, 1914.

The exigencies of the front have given the medical man a new sense. And the new sense is a very necessary one, for it enables the surgeon to see a lurking enemy at a glance and to probe for the cause of his disease. The diagnosis, the ingenuity and efficiency developed has the widest range and it is no exaggeration to say that tuberculosis and also heart disease are immediately revealed to those who are initiated.

To be able to tell tuberculosis of the lung by simply looking at the eye and measuring the soldier's pupils is certainly a wonderful discovery. It is also a practical one and simplicity itself. Its history, which has just been told to the Academy of Medicine in Paris, runs through the months of the episodes of the war. It dates from the battle of the Marne and really owes its inception to the peculiar circumstances of that gigantic battle. A considerable proportion of the French troops who fought had been called to the colors only one month previously and in that short space of time were forced to undergo physical and mental stress that would have broken a nation less spirited. It was natural that they should show the effects of a strain upon the heart and lungs. Owing to the haste of the mobilizing there was no time for the minute medical examination and reexamination that seems so necessary in the United States.

LOUIS THE MUSICIAN.

He Plays His Own Works, but Be Careful How You Applaud! To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: What has made me forget Beethoven's music all these days? Surely your readers interest themselves in the doings of Euterpe and Polyhymnia. The reason lies perhaps in the fact that I have not attended any public concerts for the last year. To a musician, listening to the same piece played by a virtuoso through a musical sound seems rather, as Shakespeare put in the utterance of the Duke to Viola, "getting a surfeit of it."

It is customary at the close of a number, no matter how indifferently or well it was performed, for the audience to cheer the soloist. In which case, I can take to our bosoms the enchantment and dreaminess of a Schumann piece, with a deafening and nerve-racking applause of clapping hands, as though we were in the very midst of a barrage fire. This might seem in accord with the unmusicianly audience but to a pianist of soul it is not only sonorous, but it is actually a kindness to be aroused from heavenly slumbers and abruptly inundated with clamor and noise—well, Mr. Satan could not spring such a surprise to inflict torture to his sizzling sinners in Hades.

Last spring I joined a club. Every Sunday afternoon a concert was given by the club. The first night I was at first this nightmare of applause had no effect on my nerves. But came a time, one month after, when a renowned pianist, hailed with "pedagogue" and other trilly titles, sat at the piano. I was all expectation. He played with velocity his Chopin. Great applause. The second number was Schumann's "Euterpe." He faltered in this—a piece he murdered, treating it like a light parlor fugitive. He could not call forth the weirdness in the middle theme nor intone the marvel melody that grips the soul—a dream. I shivered, great applause. I bowed upright in my chair. Why applaud when it was blank? Next to me sat a girl of 16, or 17, or 18, who worked overtime, and her blank yet excited eyes were turned admiringly toward the pedagogue. I felt compelled to ask her: "Are you a friend to him? Does some one pay you? Why do you applaud? Do you know the piece he was playing?" She answered blankly, "I don't know." No, why, at all events, she was the only one who applauded.

At the same time, while the other 200 persons kept up the deafening applauding, I was aware of the futility of trying to change the custom, a mere habit of concertgoers. No actual reason for it.

At another time I performed, if I may be so bold as to say, a piece of music. I played soft measures, as of breezes straying over a meadow. She played a piece with thunder tones. Loud booming above the intricate theme. He pressed his weight upon the hard stool.

Evoking harmonious noise through his playing! And each strayed from the audience there long, thunderous applause. I played soft measures, as of breezes straying over a meadow. She played a piece with thunder tones. Loud booming above the intricate theme. He pressed his weight upon the hard stool.

More tender were their words, heart-felt. Than as the thunder noise, like winter storms. The other tax received from many there. None went to them to lay their inner feelings bare. After this I left the club. When applauding will be done away with I shall attend concerts. Also, I shall gladly improvise to a sympathetic audience—in

ject to all the tests that are in vogue at present. The battle of the Ypres showed the army doctors that the human body is a plastic thing and that it has an enormous amount of latent strength and power of recuperation when it is served in men who had not let their desks and offices more than a month before; with a resolution and pluck that is the main thing they took back the first line German troops. The costs in medical terms are being reckoned. Tuberculosis appeared in men who had manifested no sign of it. Very often it was not suspected, for it betrayed itself in recognized signs, and was often discovered in the wounded who were taken to the hospitals. It was found under various conditions in all ranks and arms and in all ages, that is, in men from seventeen to forty-seven. The range of experience thus became unusually large, the statistics being collected from an army of several hundred thousand.

The fact that in tuberculosis the pupil of the eye on the side of the affected lung was smaller than on the healthy side was verified in so many cases that no doubt was possible that there was no coincidence, but cause and effect. It is a mistake to suppose that has delivered up its secrets so long ago. Most physicians thought that they knew all about tuberculosis and that they could even take a picture of it by means of X-rays. The war has taught many lessons in this field. In fact in the lungs and bronchial tubes, the most common cause of a photograph like tuberculosis. Later other symptoms and signs have proved misleading, so that the eye test depended upon as crucial. It is possible for the layman to understand without any plunge into technical details. The puzzle it involves is not any more than that the eye test is a swallowing and talking. It is a mechanism of the body—an affair of nervous connections.

Explanation of the eye test in tuberculosis is also a matter of nervous currents. The deposit of tubercles in the lung presses upon the nerves, which are connected through their ramifications with the eye and the pupil expands and contracts according to an intelligible law of action and reaction. This process is unconscious, and no one can carry it out deliberately by an effort of the will. In the best of cases, the eye test is one of the best means of diagnosing out the tuberculous region. Shaming is impossible, for the shrinker cannot tell whether his eyes are of unequal size. In doubtful cases the recruit can be kept under observation while other tests are applied.

a dark room dimly illumined by colored lanterns so the illumination is not broken by the flare of electric lighting. Clapping of hands; instead, appreciative hands clapping mine at the termination of the musical scene. After all, the ear that enjoys music, not the eye.

Hard it is to inculcate in another brain a new idea. But I trust in using for some conscientious purpose the regulation ones to be performed by professionals will be thought over in the near future be actually executed. As a starter play John Field's often, even if he has no thunderous success in his "Night Thoughts."

Chopin's most difficult compositions in his last volume are not known as a giant can execute it, but it is a good listen. Why should a professional's aim be to search for only the virtuoso music, to the utter abandonment of pieces, though short of 200 measures, cannot believe the public demands that the pianist should play the most heart music; Beethoven's music, the other great composers' music, have never heard any professional play Chopin's songs. "My Joy" is the parable. Nor Beethoven's songs. But perhaps, that these songs are so popular that professionals these days do not wish to play them. Why should a professional's aim be to search for only the virtuoso music, to the utter abandonment of pieces, though short of 200 measures, cannot believe the