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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

The Empire State's Message to President Wilson.

The resolutions which the Legislature at Albany adopted yesterday, after hearing the speech of a peace loving ex-President of the United States calling for an army of five to seven millions of men, are brief but all sufficient. They declare in a baker's dozen of words the main fact of the situation: "The most important task before the United States is to win the war." They pledge to another lover of peace, the President now charged with this tremendous military task, all the resources of the State of New York for the vigorous prosecution of the war until Prussian autocracy shall have been defeated.

Thus was it the habit of the Empire State in the dark days of the republic's great crisis, when EDWIN D. MORGAN occupied the seat now held by Governor WHITMAN, to cheer and hearten ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The message from this greatest of the American commonwealths to LINCOLN'S heavily burdened successor in supreme responsibility is as loyal as the mandate is uncompromising.

The Eighteen Million Pamphlets.

Mr. TREADWAY of Massachusetts is the Representative whom Mr. GEORGE CREEL, in a letter to the Postmaster-General, has accused of inveracity. The point made by Mr. TREADWAY was that the mails were clogged with pamphlets issued by the Committee on Public Information, preventing soldiers from getting first class mail from their friends. Mr. CREEL wrote as follows:

"When Mr. TREADWAY stated in the House that he was reliably informed that there has been a very large amount of that class of mail matter sent over, and it is a well known fact that great quantities of that class of matter have been placed in their hands overseas, he made an assertion the absolute baselessness of which could have been ascertained by a telephone inquiry."

Perhaps Mr. TREADWAY had read in Mr. GEORGE CREEL'S letter of January 7 to President WILSON this proud statement concerning the committee's output of pamphlets for foreign distribution:

"It [the Committee on Public Information] has prepared and printed for distribution to all parts of the world 18,000,000 copies of fifteen different pamphlets in seven languages."

Perhaps, having read this proud statement to the President, Mr. TREADWAY did not think it necessary to call up Mr. CREEL by telephone for further statistical information.

An Old Friend Emerges From the Tomb.

Through the Tangier correspondent of the London *Times* we have news once more of our old friend RAISULI. "PERDICARIS alive or RAISULI dead" was the diplomatic slogan not so many years ago. It was a stirring war-whoop in those days.

Anyway, PERDICARIS came out of it alive, after $70,000 had been paid for his release, and RAISULI has been dead so many times since then that if honor is not satisfied it ought to be. And every time he was dead he was caught again, and every time he was caught again he got away and began his career of intermittent decease all over once more.

It seems now that it was in one of these intervals of resurrection that the war broke out. Naturally, initiative energy such as his in murder, arson and all around brigandage, with many specialized lines of original and amusing forms of torture for the helpless, had long attracted the admiring attention of Kultur. In fact, the *Times* correspondent has been able to present a proposition of seven specifications for a Kaiser-Raisuli Kulturbund involving as one of its minor details a general exterminating slaughter of all persons, women and children, old and young, who were natives of any of the allied countries. It was to be the same familiar kind of wholesale butchery as the Turco-Teutonic massacres of Armenians. The great revolution was to begin with general tribal insurrections following declaration of a German victory in France. But Punic traditions as to faith and veracity apparently still cling to the soil of the north African coast. RAISULI was clearly tainted with them. This it no doubt was which made him suspicious of even Teutonic plighted word and honor. He refused to accept a German affirmation of victory.

"The only way to be sure of a German victory," he cynically remarked, "is an acknowledgment of defeat by Germany's adversary."

For a man so recently merely a sepulchral object, Herr RAISULI'S intellectuals would seem to be in remarkably good working order. If he had just got back from the grave, he evidently had brought all his well known dickering efficiency with him.

Where Do the Taxes Fall?

In the House of Representatives recently Mr. HUDDLESTON of Alabama put this pertinent question to Mr. KITCHIN of North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means:

"What part of the war expense do we now expect to pay by taxation and what part by bond issues?"

Chairman KITCHIN, who previously in the debate had announced that the war expense for the fiscal year, including loans to our allies, will be $16,100,000,000, replied as follows:

"The Administration started out with an idea of fifty-fifty—that is, 50 per cent. taxation and 50 per cent. bonds—but the expenditures on our part on account of the war and the loans to the Allies grew so enormously that they have abandoned that suggestion as being impracticable, if not impossible."

Mr. HUDDLESTON then inquired what was the present idea, either of the Administration or of the chairman of Ways and Means. To this Mr. KITCHIN answered:

"I do not know what the present idea of the Administration is, and I would not like to say definitely what my idea is now, but I will say to the gentleman that it will become absolutely necessary for us to have a good deal larger collection from taxes if the bond issues continue, and in all probability they will."

A little later on the Hon. LEONIDAS C. DYER, a Republican, who hails from St. Louis, Mo., and who had taken no earlier part in the discussion, rose and put a question, quite as pertinent as Mr. HUDDLESTON'S, to Chairman KITCHIN:

"Just upon the question whether or not the present generation are paying sufficient taxes at this time, I want to ask the gentleman if the committee or the gentleman himself has at any time given consideration to preparing a statement showing where the taxes really are paid at the present—from what section of the country—and whether it is not a serious burden upon business and industries which are paying the taxes and that are compelled to buy the bonds also."

Perhaps Mr. DYER believed that Mr. KITCHIN, who had been reeling off money figures like a man with a magic memory, would tell him off-hand just how much of the taxes—the $3,500,000,000 that is being collected this year—comes from the North, how much from the South. But Mr. KITCHIN replied:

"I would say the committee has all those facts and the gentleman ought to have too. I suggest to the gentleman that if he will just write to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue he will send him a printed statement giving every one of those facts."

So it does not appear in the *Congressional Record* what weight of tax levy falls on the North, what on the South. Mr. DYER is from Missouri, but Chairman KITCHIN is from North Carolina.

Register Our Man Power Now!

The hour has struck for America to take account of her man power, classify her citizenship and prepare to assign each individual in it to the task he will be called on to perform in the event of war demanding more of us than was foreseen when the present conscription law was enacted by Congress.

England waited forty-four months before her statesmen introduced the bill to make conscription the rule within her menaced islands and to enroll for service all her male citizens up to the age at which physical infirmities are assumed to render them unsuitable for the services in which men are needed.

The United States wisely adopted conscription on its entrance into the war, thus profiting by the mistakes of other nations that had depended on volunteers for their defence. We are now in a position to reap further benefits from our experience, and, while there is time, to register without confusion or disorder every male citizen up to 50, to subject each to preliminary examination, and to classify each according to his capacities for usefulness.

This is the logical and equitable extension of the system to which we are committed, and which has served us well in the establishment of our present armies. It would create a reservoir of men from which could be drawn as many as might be needed for service with the colors, in the combatant units or in the non-combatant corps.

A questionnaire designed to reveal the particular qualifications of each individual would supply to the Government information of inestimable value in meeting the requirements of situations in which men of special training would be essential to the national defence. The facts elicited by this investigation could be indexed in a way that would make them instantly available. The Government could establish a bureau from which at any moment it could obtain the names of men fitted for any duty the performance of which might be needed. It could compel the registrants to correct the descriptive cards on which their names were inscribed as their residences and occupations changed. The segregation of registrants according to their occupations could be done without haste, and should an emergency arise the Government would possess a familiarity with its man power resources obtainable in no other way.

We have no right to assume that we shall not be called on to conscript men above the age fixed by the present statute. We may hope that we shall not be driven to such an extremity, but we owe it to ourselves to leave nothing to chance. The policy we should adopt is that which includes every preparation our foresight can approve as possibly beneficial to the nation. So far as ingenuity and devotion can prevent it, nothing should be left to chance, or to the hurried improvisation of an hour of pressing danger.

Such a registration would do more than provide against the possibilities of the future. It would reveal thousands of men competent for tasks now performed by younger men fit for service in the front lines but held to other employment in which their elders could engage with equally good results. These men might be called now, releasing the younger generation for transportation overseas, without impairing the service in any manner, and strengthening it in many ways.

The principal thing, however, is that we should be prepared for any eventuality, and that the preliminary steps should be taken now, when there is ample time, and not postponed until an emergency has been forced upon us.

The Time by the Dummy Clock.

The subjoined letter is from a person who has the gift or curse of curiosity, yet who evidently has not been blessed until recently with the faculty of observation:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I notice that the hands of the dummy clock on the framework of the City Hall tower are set at 8:18. Is that the time when the Administration expects city employees to come to work?

"GREGORY W.

"NEW YORK, April 12."

We have not heard that the Mayor has changed his dictum that all department heads, and indeed all other city employees, shall be rolling up their sleeves at 9 A. M. sharp. No, the position of the clock hands has nothing to do with the activities beneath the tower; they indicate merely that the architect, or painter, of the camouflage clock has followed the custom of years. If our correspondent had been as observing in his youth as he seems to be now he would have seen that the dummy clock in front of Smith's jewelry store, Wilkinsville, or whatever was the village of his youth, had its hands firmly set at 8:18. Every counterfeit clock painted in the last fifty years by a man who respected tradition has followed a custom of somewhat murky origin.

For some unaccountable reason the custom has been linked, and wrongly so, with the time of the shooting or of the death of President LINCOLN. It was well after 10 o'clock when BOOTH fired the pistol; it was 7:22 o'clock the next morning when Mr. LINCOLN died. It is more likely that the placing of immobile clock hands at 8:18 came from a commonplace beginning: the first manufacturer of street and window signs for jewellers happened to fix arbitrarily 8:18 as the time for mock clocks, and his imitators followed suit. Eight eighteen is a moment at which a clock looks well balanced and not too tired. Six o'clock would make a clock look as if it had been cut in two. Twelve o'clock would hide one hand behind the other.

Eight eighteen will probably continue to be standard time for motionless clocks until the cubists conquer the world. Then they will set all clocks at 77 minutes past 0. They may even dare to change the figure IIII. on a clock face to IV. Then we shall have no old customs left and Mr. GILBERT K. CHESTERTON will get his hair cut and die.

The German Advance on Moscow.

According to the despatches from Petrograd yesterday the Germans are advancing from the north, west and south into central Russia. The treaty of peace forced at Brest-Litovsk, which gave them control of almost a third of European Russia, might have been considered a sufficient exaction from a supine and helpless land. But central Russia has an appealing fascination to swash-buckling militarism, and Moscow is a prize rich in prospects of spoils.

It is this city, evidently, to which the German army is directing its advance. With the attainment of Lgov more than half of the march to Moscow of the forces which set out from the Austria-German frontier is passed. They are in control of Kharkov and the province of which it is the capital. They demand the surrender of Kursk. With this in their power they would hold an important southern outpost of the ancient Russian capital and the control of a direct railroad line leading northward to its walls. Coordinating with this army in an enveloping movement are the forces that have just been landed on the Finland coast and the German forces advancing eastward from the Baltic provinces.

Moscow is the heart of Russia. Every Russian has for it a reverence that he has for no other city. His history was made there; it is the seat of his religion. To the peasant it is a holy city of great cathedrals and churches, and of shrines of his most venerated saints. The fall of Petrograd would be a mere incident of the misfortunes of war, but the occupation of Moscow by a foe would be a desecration of the most sacred place of Russia. When the enemy entered in triumph he burned it, laid its churches in ruins and delivered the cathedrals and shrines of the Kremlin to the flames rather than that history should say that they sheltered a foe of Russia.

To-day the city is without defenders. The threats of TROTZKY and LENINE to build up an army appear to have been mostly threats. There is no KUTUSOV to organize its defence and no regiments of Cossacks to harass the invaders. Instead the city seems to be helplessly awaiting the advancing German army, bent on adding it to the conquests of Teuton militarism. "So long as Moscow remains the heart of the All Russias continues to beat, and Russia cannot be conquered," is an old Muscovite saying. The Russian will tell you that he saved his country from NAPOLEON by offering his most venerated and beloved city as a sacrifice. He is proud of the fact, proud that history records that he burned Moscow to save it from his enemy. What will he do when the advancing army of invaders reaches its walls?

Cleaning Up Certain Non-Enemy Danger Spots.

The Bureau of Combustibles descended on a Manhattan warehouse on the lower West Side this week and extracted from its cavernous recesses sufficient chlorate of potash to blow Castle Garden to Governor's Island. The stuff had been stored within a short distance of the site of the terrific Tarrant explosion, and from the roof of the warehouse the smoke of the Jersey City fire and explosions of a fortnight ago must have been easily visible.

How many of these potential volcanoes are there in New York? The laws and ordinances and regulations, national, State and municipal, designed to save us from destruction appear to be of the least possible efficiency in preventing the accumulation of disaster inviting chemicals in the most thickly populated quarters of the town. In four warehouses the city officials found twenty-five tons of chlorate of potash awaiting a carelessly thrown cigarette or a spark from an insignificant fire to set it off, with consequent destruction of property and life impossible to estimate. If there is not a law to jail the persons responsible for establishing such a perilous ammunition dump there should be one.

At no time should such dangers be tolerated; this is a particularly inauspicious moment for the maintenance of so grave a nuisance. The Bureau of Combustibles did a good job when it cleaned out this menace spot. It will do a better job when it rids the city of all the similar establishments that exist.

Premier CLEMENCEAU'S gun carries further and does deadlier execution than the vaunted masterpiece of the Krupp atelier. M. CLEMENCEAU has fired the longest shot of the war and he has brought down a Hapsburg Emperor.

Doesn't the weather man know that the clocks were set forward so that we could enjoy balmy spring afternoons?

When the unfortunate PRAGER was lynched at Collinsville, Ill., the country was solemnly informed that his murder was directly attributable to the failure of Congress to enact more stringent laws against enemy aliens.

Since then it has turned out that PRAGER was taken from the custody of the civil officials of Collinsville by a mob against whose lawlessness not a single policeman drew so much as a truncheon; that he was marched through the city by persons headed by a drunken man, and that he was hanged, not to appease the righteous fury of patriots enraged by his seditious words, but to afford a holiday spectacle for immature youths as representative of public opinion as a kindergarten is representative of the French Academy.

Illinois needs no new statutes, Federal or State, to curb the indignation of its ardent Americanism. It needs a few police chiefs like MOSES CORTRIGHT, ARTHUR WOODS or RICHARD ENRIGHT to club rioters.

ALEXANDER—the pitcher, not the Persian—has been taken in the draft and thus the war is brought home at last to some young men who have devoted more attention to strikes than to salients.

RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG was no hyphenate, although he was a grown man before he left Germany. Perhaps that very fact explains his undivided allegiance to America, for he brought with him when he came here in 1865 a man's, rather than an impressionable child's, memories of the old country. He knew liberty when he had lived with liberty.

The royal word was ever fragile: a king's promise is made to be broken. WILHELM will understand CHARLES without difficulty.

The Bolsheviki have been dissatisfied with their peace treaty with Germany, which surrendered a third of the Russian people to Teutonic rule. Perhaps they would be satisfied if the whole of Russia had been lost by the bargain.

General HINDENBURG has been hit by a fragment of a bomb, and if he is as hard as his portraits make him out to be, the fragment must have been badly dented.

And lo! Oregon's name led all the rest.

Soldiers and Bonds.

Says the Bond to Uncle Sam:
"Uncle, spend me—here I am.

"Spend me, every hard earned cent,
Till the Huns in dust repent.

"When the years have numbered ten,
Then restore me whole again."

Says the Yank to Uncle Sam:
"Uncle, spend me—here I am.

"Fling me in the holy strife,
Spend me freely, blood and life."

When the years have numbered ten,
Who shall raise him up again?

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

WHITE LIGHTS.

A Modification of Their Glare Is Welcomed by the Eyes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Comparatively few of our citizens have memories extending back to the time of the old street gas lamp with its flat panes of glass and fishtail burner, and the common lighting of public buildings with the same sort of gas burner. These lights were very inefficient in the street and wasteful of oxygen in the buildings, but they furnished a softer light than their more pretentious successors.

Among the various advantages and conveniences of the electric light was one distinct disadvantage, which for a long time was accepted without criticism. In fact I think it was looked upon with favor, as being one of the earmarks by which the improved new lighting was emphasized. I mean its bluish white color. Progressive citizens were so pleased with the cleanliness, convenience and power of the new light that its very whiteness suggested a higher grade of illumination.

It is only very recently that this quality has been called in question and shown to be a serious defect. As a matter of fact we merely tolerated that quality in the lighting and escaped to gas lighted homes with a sense of relief. Any one who lives in a home illuminated with the old fashioned gas burner will agree that a visit to an electric lighted residence is more or less trying. The old fashioned kerosene student's lamp is far superior to anything electric, unless the color of the light has been modified.

The foregoing is a prelude to several suggestions which should be of general interest. The more progressive theatres and public places generally have begun to adopt a yellowish light, obtained in one manner or another, and frequently by the dipping of electric bulbs in prepared tinting solutions, and the spotlights occasionally thrown upon the stage are also yellowish in tinge. Contrasting these with the old raw white spotlight still utilized occasionally, one realizes how great the difference is and how unwelcome the white light makes itself to the eye.

A considerable percentage of our people are obliged to wear glasses when reading. Only very recently has it been possible to obtain a glass of a color which shall modify the glare of the page and give relief to the eye by means of the tinting of the glass. The use of these glasses is largely increasing. Some of them present so slight a tinge as to be scarcely noticeable and yet relieve very remarkably the eye of the reader. There are several makes of such glasses on the market, as to which any oculist can give information, and the use of them is strongly recommended.

The physical reason for tinted lights and tinted glasses seems to be that the retina of the eye is so placed as to receive a definition of objects only from the rays which are in the neighborhood of the orange part of the spectrum, the blue end of the spectrum being far less useful for that purpose, and at the same time being irritating to the eye, not to mention the fact that the eye is no doubt adversely affected by rays which are beyond the visible spectrum, the ultra-violet. These rays tend to cause the iris to contract and therefore less of the useful rays get to the eye, and a greater total of light is needed than would be required if the blue end of the spectrum were largely eliminated.

Quite recently the semi-indirect system of the lighting of buildings has assisted considerably in relief of eyesight. This is partly due to the advantage of spreading the source of light instead of permitting it to be centred in the light bulb, and partly to the fact that a considerable portion of the light is reflected from the ceiling, which should be of a tint to absorb the bluish rays and soften the quality of the whole.

It is to be hoped that this whole subject, which has only begun to receive the attention which it deserves, will be taken up as a serious matter by the general public. Our homes and places of public assembly should once more, as in the old days, be softly lighted with a quality of light not irritating to the eye, and those who have much reading to do should see to it not only that the shape of the lenses of their eyeglasses is correct according to the formula furnished to them, but that the tint of the glass is such as to assist in diminishing the eye strain otherwise resulting from a constant perusal of white pages.

CHARLES E. MANIERRE.

NEW YORK, April 12.

THE HUMAN CHEMISTRY.

When It Calls for Sugar or Tomatoes, That's the Dish!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I knew very well that the advent of spring and the mention of shortcake would arouse some people from their lethargy and incidentally give us a little lesson in Latin. I fail to see anything of a calamitous nature in the fact that some people like to eat their stewed tomatoes with a pinch of sugar added to them and their beans sweetened with molasses.

I remember one individual who could never have the tomatoes sour enough for his taste. He had to pour half a glass of strong vinegar in the stew before he found the tomatoes palatable. He just suited himself, and of course it was nobody else's business. Why should your correspondent worry if some people prefer three layers of cake with the incidental strawberries and whipped cream instead of a single decker, biscuit crusted, fresh strawberried shortcake with rich but unbeaten cream? It is simply a matter of taste. For my part, I always eat the berries plain.

The only "de disgustibus" I can see in any good cake, be it of a pancake flatness or a couple stories high, is when a fellow feels like eating a big chunk and has no money to buy it, or for the rich diabetic who has perforce to eschew it. DÉSIRÉ LESCARBOURA.

NEW YORK, April 12.

The Kearsarge Not an Ironclad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN of April 10 in the notice of the death of Charles F. Sise (page 7) says in reference to his service on the Confederate cruiser Alabama: "After capturing several prizes, the cruiser sailed for this coast and sank the Hatteras, after which she began her long cruise, finally meeting defeat at the hands of the United States ironclad Kearsarge outside of the harbor of Cherbourg, France."

Now this is correct except the word ironclad, which is very misleading to the present generation of Americans. The Kearsarge of Alabama fame was a wooden corvette, and a few years later was stranded a total wreck on Roncador Reef in the Caribbean Sea.

The present Kearsarge of our navy is a second rate battleship of the same class as our present Alabama.

J. F. TERHUNE,
Veteran of the Civil War.

MIDDLETOWN, April 12.

GERMAN SCHOOLS.

Their System Is Not Suitable for the United States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN deserves great credit for its successful campaign against the disloyal German schoolmaster in the United States. Aside from the matter of loyalty, the German educational system is undesirable in this country. Tower, in "Germany of To-day," says: "It is also painfully true that child suicide is disproportionately frequent in Germany. The Berlin papers report on an average not less than one a week throughout the year, and in by far the greater number the report runs, 'The child committed suicide owing to having received a bad report or owing to having failed to pass the terminal examination or having failed to secure promotion.'"

In other words, the German schoolmaster commits atrocities in Germany, and the whole German people have been brutalized by ill treatment at school.

I, having attended a "humanistic" (say rather "brutalistic") gymnasium (German combination of high school and lower college), will have a venomous hatred against this form of German atrocity until my dying day. May it be rooted out speedily in America.

EX-GUARDSMAN.

NEW YORK, April 12.

WINE ON THE COAST.

The Climate of Washington State Cited Against Prohibition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If prohibition is not done away with in the State of Washington it will work havoc with the health of the inhabitants, not to speak just now of the havoc wrought in other ways by prohibition.

Prohibition legislation in this State originated among the farmers of central Washington, the great Yakima district. The climate of central Washington is very dry and hot, and the great crops of wheat, cereals, alfalfa and fruits are made possible only by extensive irrigation. Truly "the desert blossoms as the rose" in these regions, for originally this part of the State was covered with sage brush and other desert growths, but now it is like an Eden of beauty and fruitfulness.

I have been in this Yakima district and my experience is that when one partakes of the fruits of this country the heat and dryness of the climate seem to set up a fermentation in the stomach. I formed the opinion at that time that alcohol would have corrected this condition, but I had no opportunity to test my belief—you cannot even buy essence of Jamaica ginger there; they sell it in powder form. I am certain that a little good brandy would be the best medicine in the world for such a complaint.

Farmers in this central Washington country cannot drink water while working in the wheat fields. Water is as bad as a poison under such conditions.

I have been in Scotland and I find the climate of Scotland and western Washington not dissimilar. The climate here in Seattle—and it is truly a climate, not "weather" as in New York city—is dry and pleasant for two or three months in the summer, but for the rest of the year it is mostly rainy, raw, gloomy.

A little good brandy is the best thing in the world to ward off the bad effects of damp, cold, raw weather. The Scotch, one of the healthiest, strongest and most capable of peoples, use liquors for this purpose, and we here in Seattle would be better off if we too used them.

CHARLES HOOPER.

SEATTLE, Wash., April 6.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Uruguayan farmers will be supplied at cost prices with seeds of wheat, oats, flax, alfalfa and corn. A sum of $124,080 has been placed at the disposal of the official seed commission.

Consul Maurice P. Dunlap reports that a Danish concern has perfected a process by which fish offal can be put to commercial uses. "Cornimit," an insulating material, is the most important of these by-products, but brushes, combs, telephone apparatus, cane handles, furniture ornaments and typewriter rollers can also be made. "Fibrin," a substitute for oil and glue in paints, is also manufactured by the Danish process. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 734 Custom House, this city, will supply the name of the firm engaged in the manufacture of the new products to interested persons who refer to File No. 98498.

An exposition of Brazilian textiles will be held in Buenos Ayres, Argentina, this month, for the purpose of demonstrating that Brazilian supplies can compete favorably with those imported from the United States and Great Britain. An effort will be made to increase the sales of jute bags for handling crops in the Argentine.

There is an opportunity for an enterprising firm to establish a cannery on the north or northeast coast of Honduras. Such a venture would undoubtedly be profitable, reports Consul C. N. Willard, as the reef waters along the coast form one of the richest fishing grounds of the world. Turtles are found in great quantities, and of the fish proper there are kingfish, Spanish mackerel, jackfish, snappers, grupers, tarpon and other varieties.

Despite unfavorable conditions, numerous businesses have been started recently in the Bordeaux consular district, France, and Vice-Consul Axel D. Becker suggests that American exporters send catalogues, preferably in French, to these firms.

It is reported that an order has been placed by an American firm with the authorities of the State of Travancore, South India, for 20,000 tons of tapioca annually, shipments to start when conditions are more settled. This trade will probably develop markets in that State for American goods.

Sugar machinery is wanted in South Africa.

A French firm wishes to secure agencies for American oil stoves and oil lamps. Samples of the styles wanted can be examined at the New York office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Room 734, Custom House.

Inquiries have been received from an English company regarding wood working machinery. Data and prices are wanted.

Following the war there will be an increased demand in Norway for electrical supplies of American make. Preparations for this trade should be begun immediately. Electric stoves especially will be needed. Catalogues showing the requirements of the Norwegian market can be consulted at Room 734, Custom House, this city, by reference to File No. 98887.

The Bureau of Fisheries has been instrumental in marketing several new varieties of fish in 1917. The quantities which have been used total: Grayfish, 4,000,000 pounds; sablefish, 4,000,000 pounds; tilefish, 6,000,000 pounds; burbot, 500,000 pounds, and Alaska Scotch cured herring, 2,000,000 pounds.

Catalogues of American flower and garden seed and nursery stock are wanted for the file of the consulate-general in Buenos Ayres, Argentina. They should be addressed to Consul-General W. Henry Robertson.

South African dealers are in the market for enamelled ware, window glass, milk cans, cream separators, churns, oil stoves and mining lamps.

Representation of American manufacturers of railway supplies and steel working machinery is desired by an Australian company.

THE FABRICATED SHIP AND ITS PART IN THE GREAT WAR.

The President of the Pacific Mail Explains an Idea That Is Revolutionizing Shipbuilding.

From an address at Chicago to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

I shall endeavor to show as clearly as possible the reasons why this new idea is revolutionizing world shipbuilding and how an apparently impossible task is being performed.

Our American International Corporation Research Department has during the last two years given most careful study to the world shipping situation as regards available tonnage and the share the United States shipyards are taking in the world's race in construction against destruction.

On June 30, 1914, we estimated a total of 49,000,000 gross tons of merchant shipping then existing in the world. By January 1, 1918, this had decreased to 44,000,000 tons, and after deducting enemy tonnage interned, neutral tonnage tied up and tonnage in military use the available tonnage for commerce was reduced to 29,000,000, or about 59 per cent. of the original total.

The foregoing statistics are given in gross tons, as it is usual to state the world's shipping figures in this measure. In America the common measure used is the deadweight ton, which is equivalent to approximately three-fifths of the gross ton. I shall state figures from now on in deadweight tonnage following American usage.

In 1917 over 11,000,000 deadweight tons were destroyed, production in the United States had increased from a normal of 500,000 tons to approximately 900,000 during the year, while all other countries had produced 3,800,000 tons. With sinkings by submarine and losses from natural causes for 1918 estimated at between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000 tons our problem is to compensate for this actual as well as future loss by an enormously increased construction of cargo vessels without interference with the needed building of naval vessels required to decrease the destructive force of the growing enemy submarine fleet.

At the present time it seems possible to produce in the United States during 1918 about 4,000,000 deadweight tons of merchant ships and approximately an equal amount in all other countries combined, with a very material increase in American production for 1919 and for subsequent years.

From present indications destruction by submarine has perhaps passed its climax, and if continued at no greater rate for the balance of the year we may expect by the end of 1918 to be producing an amount of tonnage very nearly approximating the war destruction for the year. But this can be done only by means of the so called fabricated or assembled ship and by new methods of construction. If we are to win the war we must have the ships in ample quantity, and I see no other method of producing them in sufficient volume.

The reproduction of vessels in large numbers, every one exactly the same construction, permits the use of factory methods, in which America is preeminent. The new shipyard becomes an assembling floor of a colossal ship factory whose machinery is already operating in a thousand cities, whose employees are the entire body of American skilled labor and whose conveyor belts are the American railways. This was the solution of the shipbuilding problem presented to and adopted by the United States Shipping Board, which authorized the construction of three yards for the purpose of building vessels upon this new plan; yards to be larger than any ever before conceived, the largest of which should contain fifty ways or 25 per cent. more than were then existent in the six largest American shipyards combined. It was to be planned to produce 1,000,000 tons per annum, or twice the annual merchant tonnage of all America before 1914.

How is this new principle being applied? What is a fabricated or assembled ship? It is in no sense an experiment, but a new adaptation of old and well tried principles by methods and upon a scale never before attempted, which never could have been tried had we not been forced to it by the necessities of war.

In ordinary shipbuilding practice in this country from 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the parts of a vessel are fabricated in the shipbuilder's shops, the remaining parts are fitted in the vessel when and as needed. On the destroyer work at Fore River fully 90 per cent. of the work is fabricated before it reaches the vessel. The New York Shipbuilding Corporation of Camden has gradually increased its fabrication of parts until to-day approximately 97 per cent. of the vessel is completed in its shops before being brought to the vessel to be put in place. These same shipbuilders have now assisted the American International Shipbuilding Corporation in its plans to have more than 99 per cent. of the parts manufactured in the fabricating plants of the country. This method has been so skilfully worked out that material so far received has fitted to perfection and the principle of construction proved satisfactory in practice. A plate from Montreal, Canada, fits a plate punched at Sharon, Pa., while a shape fabricated and punched at Joliet, Ill., fits the rivet holes of the plates, a triumph in the application of American mechanical engineering and production.

How is this done? The shipbuilding corporations received from the naval designer of the United States Shipping Board three drawings and certain specifications for each type of vessel. From these plans are made the usual drawings prepared in ordinary shipyard practice, approximately 200 in number, sufficient in the hands of expert shipbuilders who are permitted to fabricate and assemble the entire ship at their own plant. But the parts and material for the new ships are being fabricated and manufactured in more than 1,000 plants throughout the country, hence a most complete and detailed set of drawings was necessary and has been made of every individual part of the ship, requiring not less than 1,200 additional drawings. From these were made exact templates or wooden patterns whenever the intricacy of any particular part demanded it. Some 1,400 of these were made for each type of ship. These drawings and templates were then sent to the fabricators. In addition to this mass of drafting work the builders of engines, boilers and other parts each undertook the detailed planning of their allotted parts of the vessel. Fourteen hundred drawings are required for the hull of the vessel alone.

In ordinary practice a paper pattern would be placed upon a ship plate, say 27 feet by 6 feet in size, all rivet holes marked upon the plate and then slowly and carefully punched out one at a time. The new method of quantity production of 100 or more identical vessels required only the same pattern which sufficed for all the boats. Machine spacing of rivet holes and machine punching either of single holes or multiple groups at a time are used and 100 plates prepared with much less labor, in shorter time and with greater exactness than in the older way. Every possible part of the ship is thus manufactured in wholesale quantities in the great fabricating shops of the country, which are thoroughly equipped to do this work from long experience in bridge building or structural steel work of other sorts.

All the engines for each type of ship are built in quantity and exactly alike by the largest engine builders in the country. The boilers are duplicated in a similar manner, as are the anchors and chains and so on throughout the entire ship, thus obtaining an unprecedented speed of manufacture and a volume of product never before securable. Every part is completed outside of the shipyard as far as possible, leaving only the assembling of these parts, the actual final construction of the ship, to be done in the new assembling yards.

GEORGE J. BALDWIN.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Become Intimate With It and It's the Simplest Thing in the World.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A contributor to THE SUN of April 10 refers to the American Metric Association and asks a good question. The following answer covers the whole matter briefly.

1. As the dollar is divided into 100 cents, so the meter, the international measure of length, is divided into 100 centimeters. For accurate work the millimeter or tenth of a centimeter is so convenient that it is in general use in metric countries for mechanical drawings, machine shop work, &c. On drawings even the abbreviation is unnecessary, although it is best to state in the title that all dimensions are in millimeters. By this method fractions of any kind are usually avoided. One thousand meters make a kilometer.

2. The cubic centimeter, millimeter or mil is the small metric measure of capacity. A cubic measure 10 centimeters on each edge or 1,000 millimeters or mils make one liter, the principal measure of capacity.

3. The gram is equal to the mass or weight of one cubic centimeter or mil of water. One thousand grams constitute 1 kilogram or kilo, and 1,000 kilos make one metric ton.

4. The following units and their abbreviations have won their way on their merits and constitute all that need be known for a practical working knowledge of the metric system:

Length.

10 millimeters (mm) equal 1 centimeter
100 centimeters (cm) equal 1 meter
1000 meters (m) equal 1 kilometer (km)

Capacity.

1000 millimeters or mils equal 1 liter

Weight.

1000 milligrams (mg) equal 1 gram
1000 grams (g) equal 1 kilogram
1000 kilograms (kg) equal 1 metric ton

In designing the metric system during the years prior to 1790 the units were related to each other and full advantage taken of such facts as that distilled water is the same in all parts of the earth and the weight of other substances is compared to it. For instance, that grade of cast iron which is 7 times heavier than water is said to have a specific gravity of 7. Hence 1 cubic centimeter of such iron weighs 7 grams and 1 cubic meter of it weighs 7 metric tons. Gasolene is lighter than water, having a specific gravity of about 0.65. Hence as a liter of water weighs 1,000 grams, a liter of gasolene weighs 650 grams, and 100 liters 65,000 grams or 65 kilos. These principles apply to all calculations and enable the people who use the metric system to make accurate mental calculations which would be impossible by means of units not systematically related. Then too with these decimal weights and measures, the cash register, the slide rule and calculating machines are used to the best advantage. People do not, however, fully appreciate these advantages until they see their problems of every day life worked out in the metric way.

From the above it will be seen that the metric weights and measures, legal or necessary for all transactions in all countries, are quite intelligible and apparently will be applied to the case in question and all cases as soon as the people concerned realize that they save time and money and work more effectively with them.

HOWARD RICHARDS, Jr.,
Secretary American Metric Association.

NEW YORK, April 12.

Lincoln's Wish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following is a quotation from a letter dated July 3, 1862, written by President Lincoln to the Governor of Maine:

"If I had 50,000 additional troops here now, I believe I could subsist them on the war in two weeks. But this is anything, and if I get 50,000 new men this month, I shall have lost 50,000 old ones during the same month, having gained only 30,000 with the difference between old and new troops still against me. The quicker you send the fewer you need to send. Time is everything."

Quite as applicable now as then.

IRA BLISS STEWARD.

NEW YORK, April 12.

The Coffeeless Cafes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you tell me why every saloon, gin mill and rum shop from Broadway to Fifth avenue and to Tenth avenue euphemistically emblazons itself a "cafe"?

Were I to go into one of them and ask for a cup of coffee I would be blackjacked or "trun" into the gutter by the bouncer.

JOHN H. [illegible]

NEW YORK, April 12.

The Morning Guess.

From the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

This is the doubtful season
When we are sore perplexed—
We pull 'em off one morning, and
We put 'em back the next.