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Our Own Bolsheviki. If the Bolsheviki of this country have not learned anything from the disaster and degradation of Russia, then it may be necessary for the United States Government to put the fear of God into their hearts.

The relationship between the Western Union and its employees is no business of ours, in so far as the public's safety and welfare are not concerned. But at a time like this it is the business of everybody.

The Western Union Telegraph Company cannot afford to have any trouble with its employees. If wire service is interrupted even for an hour the United States Government would seize the lines immediately.

Government ownership would mean that the Western Union could not take in \$69,000,000 a year, as it did in 1917, and divide it among a favored few.

The man who wrote that it is not so ignorant, he could not be so ignorant, as not to know what became of the receipts of the Western Union Telegraph Company last year.

The Western Union did not take in merely \$69,000,000 last year. As a matter of fact the report to the Government shows that it took in more.

There is a temptation to inquire into the correspondent's definition of life. The most popular speculators upon the inhabitability of the sun's planets have been prone to confer upon the creatures of their imagination many of the bodily appearances, habits and weaknesses of the unfeathered bipeds of earth.

But the point is that of all the money that the Western Union did take in it was not the "favored few" but the favored many working for it who got the great bulk of it.

Out of the more than \$78,000,000 all told which the company did take in, therefore, there was left, after those operating expenses and deductions, some \$11,715,366.27.

Some of the details of where the money which did not go to its labor did go may interest the Bolsheviki incendiaries. Net additions and betterments to plant and equipment amounted to \$5,218,054.

Of the increase of accrued taxes amounting to \$2,554,213, nearly all of that amount went into income and excess profits taxes to help fight this war.

Then \$3,850,000 went into increases in salaries and wages; \$2,170,000 into special payments and benefits to employees; \$668,000 into vacations at full pay; \$782,000 into pensions, insurance, sickness and accident benefits and pay while on military service.

And lastly the company did \$7,500,000 worth of business for the United States Government for which it was allowed \$3,000,000 (a great deal less than the cost of doing the business) under an arbitrary figure fixed for it by the Government.

It holds a total of \$2,985,000 par value of second Liberty bonds and also purchased a total of \$1,825,000 of first Liberty bonds for employees' subscriptions being paid for in monthly installments.

We hold no brief for the Western Union. If the men ought to have more pay they ought to get it. But we do hold a brief, we are thankful to say, against every deliberate distortion of facts and howling derision of anarchy which inflames weak and criminal minds to the passions and violence which wrecked Russia and slaved its millions of people crawling slaves under the iron heel of Russia.

Liberty Loan's Last Week. Those of us who, for whatever reason, stay at home in this war, can help to make the fight. Liberty Bonds are our weapon.

If we over here do our part our allies and our troops over in France will do theirs. They will outfight and defeat the German armies, whether on one line or another. But we at home cannot fall down in our work without compelling utter failure upon them in their work.

It is only with money that we can do our part—money to send over men, money to arm and equip them, money to feed and clothe them, money to take care of them when they are wounded and sick—money to keep on sending them and to keep on maintaining them at the highest point of fighting efficiency.

This is the last week of the Third Liberty Loan. Everybody, no matter what he has done already, must get into this Liberty Bond fight now as if he had done nothing at all before.

If the district of New York raises \$100,000,000 a day for the rest of this Liberty Loan week, it will not be enough in the sense of doing all that ought to be done for those men over there. It will not be more than enough. Lend a hand, everybody!

Is Man the Sole Beneficiary of the Universe? Even in war time the thoughtful mind will stray off to the bloodless fields of cosmic speculation.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In the early part of 1903 the late ALFRED RUSSELL WALLACE published an essay in the Fortnightly Review, and concurrently in the Independent, in which he argued that our earth is nearly in the centre of the sidereal universe, and also near the centre of the plane of the Milky Way, which he maintained is an immense circle of stars and nebulae.

He further insisted that the earth is the only planet of our solar system that is inhabited or inhabitable, or ever was, and that no planet of other stars (if any of them has a planet), is or ever was inhabitable; in a word, that life only exists, or can exist, in this world, and that the entire universe is a vast mechanism designed, or at least working, to produce man.

The position taken by Dr. WALLACE was challenged chiefly, as I remember, by a few astronomers, and later in the year 1903 he published a volume entitled "Man's Place in the Universe," in which he extended his argument and marshalled the evidence on which it was based.

"Will you please tell me whether the view of Dr. WALLACE has been generally accepted by scientific men, or is it still in the clouds of controversy? A. B. "NEWARK, N. J., April 27."

immense chemical puzzle—has long interested himself in the infinitely great as well as in the infinitely small; and although the volume before us, "The Destinies of the Stars," is not the author's first venture in the astronomical field, it is likely, as he says, to "fill the gaps" in his previous works, one of which is "Worlds in the Making."

The beliefs of the late Professor LOWELL, father of the theory that Mars is the abode of an intelligent race that wrings, as we do, a living from vegetation, come under the scrutiny of Dr. ARRHENIUS. He considers Mars unfit to harbor living beings:

"There is possibly a slight amount of oxygen in the thin air, but the extremely low temperature and the scant supply of water vapor form unremovable obstacles to the subsistence of even the simplest forms of life in the equatorial regions on Mars. Even if life could develop during the day . . . it would be destroyed without mercy by the bitter frost at night."

The so-called canals of Mars, says the Swedish scientist, are not the work of Martian engineers, but the result of upheavals like our own earthquakes. The gorgeous autumn foliage which FLAMMARION believed to come with the Martian frosts is the red dust of a cold, desert planet.

Farwell, interesting old friends! Mercury resembles Mars in many ways, but has no atmosphere and is too cold to have moisture in a fluid state. As to our intimate acquaintance, the dead, cold moon, Dr. ARRHENIUS says:

"All evidence points to the conclusion that life never inhabited its rough surface."

Of our own planet's future Dr. ARRHENIUS believes that the earth will meet the fate of Mars rather than that of the moon. This, however, will be millions of years yet, and meanwhile man will watch Venus with interest, for she appears to be the planet of hope, with her warm climate and her luxuriant vegetation.

Even now, thinks Dr. ARRHENIUS, Venus contains life, but only the low forms, probably vegetable:

"The organism there should have developed into higher forms than elsewhere, and progress and culture, if we may so express it, will gradually spread from the poles toward the equator. Later the temperature will sink, the dense clouds and the gloom disperse, and some time, perhaps not before life on the earth has reverted to its simpler forms or has even become extinct, a flora and fauna will appear, similar in form to those that now delight our human eye, and Venus will then indeed be the Heavenly Queen of Babylonian fame, not because of her radiant lustre alone, but as the dwelling place of the highest beings in our solar system."

So far as to-day is concerned, however, Dr. ARRHENIUS finds no habitability in any part of the solar system except our own sphere.

What of the uttermost skies? "A. B." may insist. What of the stars that flame at distances from the earth so great that they make our nearest, 33,000,000 miles from Nassau street, seem very close at hand? Are Aldebaran and his rivals, twenty trillion miles distant, mere lanterns toward light us as we rush on to ward the Milky Way; or are they super-stars about which revolve other earths with other satellite moons?

We quote the closing words of Dr. ARRHENIUS's book; words of faith for which he offers no proof:

"It is highly probable, nay, almost certain, that around the countless suns which dot the firmament spin dark bodies, although unfortunately our most powerful lenses do not reveal them. A number of these unseen stellar bodies shelter living beings, which even might have climbed to a higher point on the ladder of evolution than have the inhabitants of the earth."

Thus the latest guess at the enigmas of the stars. It is earthly logic accommodating itself to the unknown; it is reason insisting that, just as the Equitable Building would not be put up merely to house Mr. MARQUIS's delightful but minute insect, Archie, so therefore the ultra-galactic worlds are not simply adjuncts of an earth which is relatively only a grain of dust in a storm of stars.

Yet we would not disparage the earth. It is, as Dr. ARRHENIUS says, "the best of worlds among those we know." Petty as it is in the whole physical cosmogonic scheme, it infinitely watches it as carefully as it observes the perhaps more perfect worlds that the scientist believes lie out there a hundred light years distant. And although "A. B." may not be satisfied with the answer, it is not possible for the individual of the other planets to be aware of existence without being themselves visible or palpable, without being shaped or at all confined by the three dimensions which fetter us? Scientists discard moon people because the moon has no atmosphere—as if consciousness must necessarily breathe oxygen!

They say that there are no Martians because the temperature on Mars is believed to be detrimental to all but the lowest forms of life. Is it certain that consciousness cannot be expected in a housing that is affected by heat or cold?

However pleasant these speculations, duty requires an answer to the question put by "A. B." in the last paragraph of his letter; and we can find no better way to satisfy him than to open a remarkable book, only now published in English, that was written by Dr. SVANTE ARRHENIUS, president of the Nobel Institute and winner of the Nobel Prize of 1903. This Swedish scientist, whose reputation was established twenty years ago as the discoverer of the theory of electrical dissociation—the solution of

to impair, and if possible destroy, the amity that has marked the diplomatic history of the United States and Japan. Every plausible cause of offense arising in their dealings, official and commercial, has been utilized to the fullest possible extent in a campaign to bring them to misunderstanding and to foster enmity between them. The most subtle falsehoods have been put in circulation concerning incidents capable of misconception; downright lies have been invented to irritate the Japanese and the American people, and to embroil their Governments.

It is highly to the credit of popular road sense and official intelligence in Japan and the United States that this cunning propaganda has produced so little effect. The new Ambassador is one of the foresighted statesmen to whom we owe the correction of erroneous beliefs and the consequent maintenance of the cordiality and confidence which make for the uninterrupted prosperity and happiness of the two peoples.

With great amiability Representative SLAYDEN of Texas, in a recent House debate, set up WILLARD S. ISHAM "in the company of MOSES, HANS, ERICSSON, LANGLEY, EDISON and other men who have made great epoch making discoveries and were also cranks," as Mr. ISHAM was thought to be by Washington officials when he "pestered" them. Representative SLAYDEN proved by Congressional documents that as long ago as 1912 Mr. ISHAM urged, in a letter to the House Committee on Military Affairs, the construction for the army of 8,000 armored cars, the British tanks of to-day. Not only that, but he suggested camouflage for the cars when used as placed battery guns in this interesting language:

"But the probability of being damaged in this way would be small, because when discovered they could be changed to new positions, while both targets of the same size and color could be left to exhaust the enemy's ammunition and discourage him from continuing such attacks."

Representative ANTHONY of Kansas reminded Mr. SLAYDEN that the same Mr. ISHAM "has been battling with both departments of the army and navy to my knowledge for the last ten years to secure the adoption of the high explosive shell, as against the armor piercing shell."

The House was further surprised when Mr. SLAYDEN, continuing, asserted that Mr. ISHAM had tried for years to interest the Navy Department in "a projectile that would go down into the water and there explode. . . . the ancestor of the depth bomb," built on "the same principle exactly."

Representative BRITTON then recalled that Mr. ISHAM "had an idea for a retarded action fuse, . . . a good idea," which the navy has largely developed.

If the great gray building somewhat nearer than the White House to the setting sun is not overcrowded with gentlemen having "good ideas" as valuable as ideas for tanks, depth bombs, camouflage and retarded fuses a desk might be found there for Mr. ISHAM.

A report from Washington says that while Germany interned in this country are not better fed on the part of the regular garrison ration of the United States Army. They should have no complaint to make if this is the case, for the best fed army in the world is a mighty healthy looking and active organization.

Vacant lots seized for war gardens.—The news.

If the authorities draft loafers to work in these fields, the problem of what to do with wastes will be happily solved.

The postmaster of a suburban town recently called a meeting of the members of his force and organized them into a Third Liberty Bond Club. He strongly urged the value to the Government of the \$50 bond buyer, reminding the employees that if every wage earner in the country bought one such bond nearly half of the third issue would be thus subscribed. There were thirty-seven men of the force at the meeting and every man subscribed; for the fifties, some for the hundred dollar bonds. But the postmaster found thirty-nine names on the list. Two were of messenger boys who delivered special delivery letters. "We are wage earners," they said when questioned. "We can chip in a dollar a week, easy." Is there not a good suggestion here for employers? Emphasize the value of the fifty dollar bond buyer!

"Incredible falsehood" was the answer of General PETERSON C. MARON, Chief of Staff, to-day to German semi-official statements printed in the Handelsblat that American aviators are being sent abroad in hospital ships, registered as noncombatants.—Newspaper despatch from Washington.

That is, a German lie; one phrase is as strong as the other.

One of the explanations for having three meatless days in France is that some of that ally's meat supply will have to be used to feed part of the American army. If that is true, then the United States is landing men faster than it brings their food, a condition not contemplated until the recent military situation made it evidently necessary. Of course France will be willing to accommodate herself to an emergency that will continue until the American fleet is larger; and a ban on meat three days a week, while not welcome to any nation, is a small sacrifice compared to others that France has made.

Dividing the Honors in Nebraska. From the St. Paul Republic.

In our writup last week of the Blair competition we stated that Mr. Kamm done the serving, when we should have stated that all of the ladies present done the serving.

Season Open. Knicker—Is Jones an oar? Boater—No, he claims to have swatted five fish.

HORSE MEAT FOR MAN.

Is There More Than the Moslem Prohibition Against It?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In view of the meat shortage, of which we hear so much, it seems odd that I read no suggestions as to the use of horse meat as food. This has long been commonly eaten in France, and a few years ago it was reported that in certain parts of the Western States canneries had been established to put up for export the flesh of wild horses, which were said to have so increased as to be a great nuisance in parts of Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Horse meat is excellent food, and I am sure that it is only the Moslem prohibition which creates a prejudice against it. Young horses fit quite as good as young beef, though when newly killed it has a certain sweetish taste to which some people object. If hung for twenty-four hours, however, the meat loses this taste.

Some one has recently suggested that dogs be utilized as food, and that people go into the business of breeding puppies to eat.

The flesh of a young fat dog is excellent eating and may be compared with the flesh of young pig. Old tough dog is no more desirable than the meat of an aged bull or ram, but many people would eat those old animals which split the hoof, and would turn up their noses and be actually repelled by the suggestion of eating dog.

Many years ago, in his delightful book "Wahyohah" a story was told by Lewis in which he cooked his first trial on a dog's meat. He was travelling with old John Smith, a famous Western character who flourished on the plains between 1836 and 1870, and being new to the West was asking his companion all sorts of questions about the country and the people. In discussing food Smith gave him a long and interesting account. When Garrard voiced his abhorrence at the thought of eating man's best friend, Smith said, "I bet I make you eat dog meat in the village and you will say it's good."

Some days later, while sitting in an Indian lodge with Smith and Greenwood, who had been his supper, Garrard says of his companions:

Their unusual laughter attracted my attention, but not divining the cause, I joined in the conversation. It was now quite late, and feeling hungry I asked what they were eating. "Terrapin," promptly replied Smith. "Terrapin" echoed I in surprise at the name. "Terrapin! How do they cook them?" "You know them hard shell terrapin?" "Yes."

"Well, the squaws go out to the sand bars and bring the critters that are 'em in the shell alive—those stevin' that are cleaned first. However, they're 'darned good'."

I listened of course with much interest to their account of the savage dish and tried to get a taste of that same terrapin. "Well, you can't eat 'em in the shell—those stevin' that are cleaned first. However, they're 'darned good'."

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AGAINST PROHIBITION.

A Woman's Belief That It Is Not Needed for the War.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It does not seem quite honest for prohibitionists to state that national prohibition is necessary on account of the war, for the making of strong liquors has been stopped, and it is understood that the President has the power to limit the amount of grain used in beer whenever necessary.

In one town workmen once struck when they could not get beer, though their employers were in no way responsible for the temporary lack. There would likely be more strikes if all workmen were suddenly deprived.

The majority have no more right to dictate what a person shall drink in self-control than a majority of Protestants in a town has to declare there shall be no Catholics or a majority of Catholics to declare there shall be no Protestants.

National prohibition is quite as stupid as passing a law that some one shall do no more work than the weak.

It is not right to make the intelligent, self-controlled people the slaves of the drunkard, to make the drunkard the measure of the capacities and character of the self-controlled.

Have the American people become so degenerate that they must eat their leaden strings like a lot of children? Nearly all the great men of the age have been drinkers of wine or liquor in some form in moderation.

C. SANFORD. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 27.

ECONOMY IN WORDS.

A Distinguished Author Strikes at the Pleonasm.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The letter of G. T. Hamilton, which proposes to save time, energy, space and paper by substituting a stopping stroke (/) for "the," interests me. Mr. Hamilton has only taken a nibble where he might have had a large bite. There are whole words much larger than "the," which, over and over again, are repeated needlessly and inelegantly both in conversation and in print. Let me specify a few.

There are words which are necessary in asking a question, but should not be repeated, though usually they are repeated, in the answer. The most common of these is "purpose." Thus, "What is the purpose of that fuel?" "It is for cooking purposes." Instead, answer simply, "It is for cooking." Your interlocutor is no more liable to think you intend to cook your fuel than to think you are having a conversation with a pig. A book of curious statistics tells us that "nearly 10,000 hounds are maintained in the United Kingdom for hunting purposes." On reading that many smart Ale also might remark that many founts of a higher order than hounds are continually being poured, when Shakespeare's words, "The flighty purpose never is o'erlook, unless the deed goes with it."

A similar pleonasm occurs frequently in use of the word "situated." "How is the house situated?" "It is situated on a hill. It is only necessary to answer, 'It is on a hill.' Omit all those "ones" and also the article "a."

The universal and persistent habit of using "one" needlessly and inelegantly used to throw John Neal into a verbal fit. Thus: "The day was a beautiful one." "The road is a long one." "The story is a tedious one." "The bill was a good one." "The deed was a kind one," and so on endlessly. Omit all those "ones" and also the article "a."

There is a more extended locution than any of those, which is always inexcusable and clumsy. Thus: "Charlotte was cutting bread and butter at the time." "No policeman was in sight at the time." "By the way, there were three needless words," "the time" stand at the beginning of a sentence instead of at the end they may be dropped, for they are always followed by "when," which alone conveys the whole sense.

The best proofreader I ever have known, the late Mr. T. H. Bigelow of Cambridge University Press, never hesitated to improve the location of our most famous authors by striking out the explosive "there" when it occurs, needless, as usually it does. In the quotations "There is a land of pure delight" and "There's a woman like a dewdrop" it is needless, correct and elegant. But what clumsy intellect translated Socrates as saying "There can no evil befall a good man?"

If I were teaching English I should persuade my pupils to cultivate a habit of omitting needless words from every story, long or short. But that is a cardinal principle in editing, the editing of one's self, and requires a separate chapter. ROSSETTA JOHNSON. New York, April 27.

VICTORY O'CLOCK.

A Woman's Plan for Ten Tremendous Minutes.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: May I not look to THE SUN for endorsement and support of my scheme for the President as outlined in the attached copy of my letter to him? HILAN FRASER. MONTCLAIR, N. J., April 27.

My Dear Mr. President: May I presume to offer a suggestion for pushing America into one final, organized, simultaneous effort on the present Liberty Loan?

This could be accomplished with effective results by a Presidential proclamation setting aside ten minutes on the last day of the present Liberty Loan drive—these ten minutes to be designated as Victory O'Clock—during which period every American man not in the uniform, and every woman and child, is to be placed on his honor to buy at least one bond of the Third Liberty Loan, or at least one Thrift Stamp.

When Victory O'Clock strikes throughout the United States, a mighty vital wave of dynamic patriotic thought and action will sweep the land, and thrill and strengthen the very men in camp on the sea and in battle.

These intense ten minutes of Victory O'Clock would not only net the Government millions of fighting dollars, but would exert a profound and solemn psychological effect upon all Americans everywhere. HILAN FRASER.

The Mothers of the Stars. We saw the women marching with service flags in hand. The women who have given Their sons to save the land.

The rippling of the breezes The constellations bright, And all the waving banners 'Were freedom's ornament.

We hail the women's glory, The fashioners of Mars, The mothers of the stars, The mothers of the stars. MCLAREN WILSON.

HOW THE PROBLEM PRESENTED BY SIBERIA MUST BE ATTACKED.

Industrial Development Offers a Splendid Opportunity for Allied Statesmen and Defenders of Democracy.

From an article by A. J. Cook, Director of the Business Information Bureau in the United States, in the "Asia" Journal, New York City.

Now, while Russia is helpless, is the time for the Allies to take up the Russian problem and by an active, constructive policy to bring her to her feet. The Germans were able to produce their deadly effect in Russia through their knowledge of the fundamental facts in the Russian situation and by utilizing certain psychological factors which are of importance in the life of every nation. Our friends must go by the same route. By so doing they will be able to bring Russia back.

The Siberian problem can be taken up from two angles. First, it must be established most emphatically that in the future economic and financial reconstruction of Russia, Siberia will play the most important role. The Bolshevik, with their naive political and economic experiments, will disappear as soon as the instinct for self-preservation reasserts itself in Russia, as soon as Russia begins to recover from her grave wounds.

Her recovery, however, full of latent dangers, passing through a period of utmost disorganization known to every country that has passed from tyranny to free, democratic development. Finally, with the disappearance of the Bolshevik, the industrial system will be reestablished, the management of industries will be placed in the skilled hands of the industrial class as soon as the nation, coming out of its crisis, will bring into existence a stable, democratic Government.

As the Secretary of the Government, the mind and statesmanship of Russia's mind and statesmanship. The "Socialism" proclaimed by the Bolshevik—all the great Socialist leaders naturally repudiated such kind of Socialism—has resulted in the utmost disorganization of industry, transportation and finance, and has created a chaos in the economic life of the nation, to build up the industries and to bring them to the proper stage of efficiency.

This brings us to the economic programme of the First Provisional Government, a programme to which every future democratic government in Russia should adhere. The economic future lies in the development of her natural resources and for this, first of all, foreign capital is needed. This in turn necessitates the reestablishment of Russia's credit in the foreign markets, and the Bolshevik's repudiation of Russia's national debt.

It is therefore the duty of the Government to be obliterated as soon as their tyranny is overthrown. Every future Russian democratic government will have to begin with acknowledgment of the Russian debt and honest payment of the interest and principal.

As the Secretary of Trade and Industry in the Provisional Government, A. I. Kononov, stated in his address before the Moscow Stock Exchange on April 14, 1917, the Russian budget after the war will amount to less than 8,000,000,000 or 9,000,000,000 rubles, and it is impossible to cover such a budget by means of increased taxation.

"The extent of taxation is limited by the country's productivity," said Mr. Kononov, "and its increase is possible only in proportion to the increased value of the total production of the country's industries. The imperative demand for the development of our industries has compelled the Ministry of Trade and Industry to start searching for new sources of wealth in the country, for the purpose of developing them at the earliest possible moment. In this connection the ministry has, in the first place, turned to the undeveloped riches of the north. Our Ministry has appointed a special committee for the purpose of studying the natural resources of our northern provinces, in order to develop their economic life in general, and above all to increase our lumber export."</