The Sun

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Father Knickerbocker and the President Get Nearer Together.

The outstanding fact about the recent visit of the President of the United States to this town ought to be recognized promptly and stated clearly, if only for the sake of historical truth.

President WILSON left in Washington so much of the Chief Magistrate's enormous daily burden of care and responsibility as is not inextricably bound up in his brain and heart, and came over to the metropolis with two avowed purposes. One was to help set agoing the second great campaign for money to enable the American Red Cross to continue its transcendentally important work for humanity and civilization. The second purpose was to "give a tired man a good time," as the tired man himself phrased it soon after his arrival. In both respects the President's three days visit to New York was phenomenally successful.

The speech in the Metropolitan Opera House was a splendid prelude to this week of Red Cross effort. It was at the same time a summons to the soul and a call to the pocket; it will rank high among the many addresses in which Mr. WILSON's unexcelled power of expression has served his country and inspired his fellow citizens to a new conception and nerved them to new resolutions of patriotic duty. And when the President had the happy notion of marching afoot down Fifth avenue in the beautiful parade of Saturday, carrying a Red Cross flag, he put himself in a position of high visibility at the head and front of that vastly larger procession which all through this week will be marching by hundreds of thousands and millions straight for the Red Cross's treasure chest to deposit therein their heart given offerings.

As to the second and more personal purpose of Mr. WILSON's visit, we are sure we violate no confidence when we announce that no tired President, and few if any tired men of any station in life, ever had a better time than was enjoyed here from Friday to Sunday by the illustrious guest of Father KNICKERBOCKER and Colonel EDWARD M. HOUSE.

But what THE SUN wants to speak of particularly is the fact that something more than this, something perhaps even more important than all this, has been accomplished between the coming and the going. Never before has the President succeeded in getting so near to the people of New York; or, what amounts to the same, never before have the people of New York succeeded in getting so near to the President. A direct human relation, a mutual understanding of a new and very satisfactory character, has been established without conscious effort on either side, while New York has been watching the tired Executive having his good time, dining, lunching, play going, automobiling, church going, giving the slip to his portentous Secret Service retinue, exploring the minor thoroughfares of the city, playing HAROUN AL RASCHID on his own account, emancipating himself temporarily from the control of convention and of superior authority of every other sort, barring only that of Mrs. WILSON and Rear Admiral CARY P. GRAYSON.

New York has taken to the President as never before; and this is because he has shown to New York, as never before, personal qualities not previously well understood. If Mr. WILSON had any deliberate purpose in allowing himself to be surrounded in Washington by a protective reputation for aloofness, he has managed to destroy much of his own handiwork by his admirably human and democratic conduct while in town on this memorable occasion; by his tactful and graceful and engaging demeanor at every point of contact with his fellow citizens.

It is a good thing for a President to get out of the White House once in a while and go freely among the other democrats. The better understanding is bound to come and to count.

General March's Promotion.

There is practical reason for promoting PEYTON C. MARCH to the rank of General. He is Acting Chief of the General Staff, on the nomination, as we understand it, of General PERSHING. His work is rendered more difficult by the unyielding requirements of seniority. He is himself a hater of red tape, a man of direct action, an enterprising soldier. The fact that he has General PERSHING's indorsement will answer all the questions the public may want to ask about him.

The reorganization of the army will require many changes, some of them involving the promotion of juniors over the heads of seniors. It is tough on the seniors, but necessary for the country. The only important thing is that the right juniors should be selected, and MARCH has convincing credentials. Give him the authority and the title; old Red Tape must be circumvented where it cannot be cut.

Major Lufbery.

One by one the strong young eagles fall. First it was GUYNEMER, next RICHTHOFEN; now it is LUFBERY.

Of all the heroes of the air RAOUL LUFBERY, a man of American and French blood, French birth and American bringing up, was the most picturesque, taking his life as a whole. He was an adventurer in the clean sense of the word; a wanderer who wanted to see everything from Connecticut to Tibet, and who was glad to do any work, from waiting on table to bombing a city, that would permit him to allay the itch of his spirit.

How great a pursuit aviator LUFBERY was is shown by his record while in the French service, before his transfer to the American flying squad. After GUYNEMER's death only five Frenchmen had more enemy planes to their credit than the man from Wallingford. He had then brought down sixteen German diers, four more than NAVARRE.

Probably his death came as he fearlessly expected. His adventurer's soul must have been satisfied in the two years, from Verdun to Toul, that LUFBERY spent in the glorious tournaments of the clouds. Two nations will mourn him: France, to fight for which he gave up his American citizenship; and America, which was glad to take him back when she herself saw the cause of France in the light that LUFBERY had seen it.

Nine Hundred Millions to Build Up the Railroads.

It will be the opinion of the soundest railroad men in the country, we have no doubt, that the authorization by the Director-General of Railroads of an expenditure of about $938,000,000 by the carriers is as nearly right for the moment as anybody could estimate it. It is true that JAMES J. HILL persistently used to din into the ears of the nation that the railroads needed to spend a billion a year to keep up with the growth of the country. It is true, also, that in the days when Mr. HILL was preaching his wise doctrine a billion a year spent on the roads would do a great deal more for them than it could do now, when the cost of labor, rolling stock, rails and all supplies is so much higher than in his time.

But, with his prophetic vision always peering far into the future, Mr. HILL was speaking not merely of maintaining railroads in first class condition, but of flinging them into new fields far and wide among an increasing population with expanding industry and commerce. Then the railroads, the good ones, were in fine condition and able to continue in fine condition.

Now, with the great majority of the railroads in atrociously bad condition because the Government had starved them for years, the first problem is to get them up on their feet again. It is idle to dream of hundreds of thousands of miles of new trackage pushing steadily, as in previous years, into pioneer territory, when there aren't enough cars to load the traffic that there is, when there aren't enough locomotives to haul the cars that are still in running condition, when the roadbeds aren't right, and when a great part of the American railway system is on the verge of collapse. It will be time enough to resume the splendid extension policy of the great railroad builders of the past when the existing transportation system has been restored to the degree of service and efficiency which obtained in their era.

If a railroad dollar in any case will not go as far now as seventy-five cents went a few years ago, if in some cases it will not go as far as half a dollar once went, the $937,961,318 authorized by the Director-General makes a good start on the first call essentials because only $18,000,000 of it goes into extensions. The rest is divided: $449,686,531 for equipment and $440,071,013 for additions and betterments.

It is fortunate, too, that the rich and powerful railroads, able in spite of the inadequate traffic rates of recent years to keep going properly, have not fallen into the decay which has all but ruined hundreds of thousands of miles of transportation systems, North and South, East and West. If a broken down system like the Boston and Maine has to get, under the authorization, more than $22,000,000, a Chicago and Northwestern calls for only $11,000,000. If the Erie requires more than $24,000,000, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy can do with less than $13,000,000. If the Southern Railway asks for $47,000,000 and gets $29,000,000, the prosperous Southern Pacific can make out with an allowance many millions lower.

If the New York Central gets more than $70,000,000 and if the Pennsylvania lines, East and West, get more than $112,000,000, they are, in capacity, service and importance to the nation, fifty times what numbers of roads are whose combined allotments greatly exceed the allotments of those two systems.

Moreover, what—small allowances have been made for extensions seem to have been carefully distributed. In the growing West and Southwest, the Atchison gets, for extensions, more than $700,000; the St. Paul more than $600,000; the Great Northern more than $450,000; the Northern Pacific $235,000; the Union Pacific system more than $800,000; the Southern Pacific (with the greater part of it going $427,000 to the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio, and $900,000 to the Houston, East and West Texas) more than $1,500,000. In the South proper, not counting the Baltimore and Ohio with its $450,000, the Charleston and Western Carolina Railway gets $500,000; the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railway more than $900,000; the Louisville and Nashville nearly $1,000,000; the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis $559,000.

The big thing, however, is that the many almost fatally battered roads now have a chance to patch themselves up. The few yet healthy roads can make themselves stronger. This work cannot be done too soon for the good of ourselves and of our allies on the battle lines of France.

Aviation Service Costs.

The *Evening Post* gently accuses THE SUN of having "confused appropriation with cost" in an editorial article recently printed relating to Aviation Service expenditures during the current fiscal year, and with having "indicated" that the figures of totals we gave, $1,145,950,000, were figures of sums which had been actually spent.

So far from having indicated that the total sum had been spent, THE SUN plainly and distinctly stated that in the total we gave was included $550,000,000 not spent, not even appropriated, but formally asked for by the Secretary of the Treasury. We said, after giving the figures of appropriations:

"To this must be added an existing deficiency (General SQUIER's letter to the Secretary of the Treasury) of $200,000,000, 'and,' says General SQUIER in the same letter, 'in addition it is estimated that an amount totalling $250,000,000 will be needed before the end of the present fiscal year (June 30) for the same purpose.' Grand total for the fiscal year, $1,145,950,000."

The *Post* finds in a Treasury statement of appropriations and cash disbursements for the Aviation Service an entry from which it draws the comforting conclusion that the cost of the service up to the first of this month had been only $316,517,816.36. But we call our neighbor's attention to the fact that that sum represents only cash disbursements, sums which have been paid out of the Treasury on account of the service. This is a widely different sum from that for which the Treasury is obligated or else there would be no existing deficiency.

The total of appropriations for the Aviation Service available during the current fiscal year, according to the Treasury statement, which includes some items which we did not include in our total, is $749,886,052.68. That so much of this sum as remains after deducting the cash disbursements noted above is not a free fund, but a fund against which adopted plans and agreed expenditures are a lien, is proved by General SQUIER's estimate, which the Secretary of the Treasury makes his estimate, that a deficiency of $200,000,000 must be provided for by further appropriations and "in addition it is estimated that an amount totalling $250,000,000 will be needed before the end of the present fiscal year."

It is true that deficiency appropriations are sometimes made while there is no deficit in the fund concerned disclosed by Treasury bookkeeping, but it is equally true that the appropriating committee in such case must first be shown by the best informed authority that the Treasury statement of funds disbursed does not tell the whole story. An unexpended balance is frequently mortgaged, as has again and again been pointed out by Representative FORDNEY and other House Treasury experts; the unexpended balance will not liquidate obligations incurred.

"There is an existing deficiency," says the Secretary of the Treasury. If that does not mean that the unexpended balance will not pay debts properly chargeable against the fund it does not mean anything.

A Word From the Ringside.

When we receive a letter whose author says "my attention has been called to an article in THE SUN" we know intuitively that he is a regular and eager reader of this incontestably superior newspaper; and so we say that our attention has been called to the subjoined remarks of the *South Side Observer* of Rockville Centre:

"'Mr. LODGE countered with the obvious remark that BANNWART was a liar, and floored him with a punch to the jaw highly creditable to a gentleman 67 years old, who had recently recovered from a severe illness.—THE SUN.'

"Of course, a punch 'to' the jaw may be all right. Nevertheless, to one who has been sitting at the feet of THE SUN's Gamaliel nigh onto fifty years, it looks a little odd. Out here in Rockville Centre, whenever such condign punishment is administered, the victor always speaks of it as a punch 'in' the jaw. So, by the way, does the vanquished if he takes his jaw to law. The *Observer* would not be classed with those who rush in where angels fear to tread. It simply looks in just far enough to inquire, 'How about it?'"

A punch in the jaw is a good phrase and frequently a most admirable thing. If Rockville Centre wants to use it in describing the act of a gentleman who hangs one on a blackguard's chin, we shall not find fault with its choice of language. Americanized English speech is broad and rich; the thoughtful student will find in it pithy and striking locutions fit for every emergency.

Our own choice is a punch to the jaw. Had Senator LODGE struck with open hand, we might have said that he delivered a smack on the puss. The phrase is as weak as the action. Had the good man from Massachusetts who on that historic April day proved to the world the worth of a Harvard education drawn claret from the Princeton entrant, we, of course, should have recorded the fact that he smeared BANNWART's map. If his clenched fist had connected with the pacific proboscis that fronted his visitor, we should have been happy to immortalize his success in getting one in on the beezer, though some authorities might prefer "bent his beak." BANNWART got away without a blue eye, so we were unable to say anything about that bird's lamps.

Had this fight gone further, had BANNWART not been physically as inferior to LODGE as he was morally and intellectually, there would have been opportunity to speak of the bellows and the bread basket. We regard bread basket as a pulling evasion, but it is popular. The race has grown soft in its language, though not, thank GOD, otherwise soft.

Naturally, nobody would say punch on the jaw; that is too obvious. Anyhow, LODGE sent BANNWART to the mat, which was a good job, and if anybody else calls him a coward he will treat the liar in the same fashion.

The Two Purposes of War.

According to the *Volkszeitung* of Cologne, Emperor WILLIAM, speaking at the graves of German soldiers buried at Aix-la-Chapelle, said:

"The soldier who has struggled through the iron time of the world war will be a teacher and leader of the growing youths at home in building up and consolidating the reborn empire."

In the long list of speeches by the Kaiser for the extension of imperialism and the glorification of Hohenzollernism none could more clearly define his ideals for the future of Germany than this utterance.

The "reborn empire" is the empire which he sees in his imagination marked out by the German sword, an empire pieced out by a slice of Belgium which he had ruthlessly burned and destroyed, a bit of France his armies had devastated, a territory won by threats and trickery from a supinely helpless Russia, a collection of subservient vanquished lands and a great vassal State cunningly erected from the nations of his allies who had cast their fortunes with him in the war.

The "building up and consolidating" of this congeries of people crushed beneath the might of Prussian arms he entrusts to "the growing youths at home." To a task so great, a task fraught with an infinite meaning to civilization, we might well expect some definite directions. The Kaiser gives them. "The soldier who has struggled through the iron time of the world will be the teacher and leader." Through the men in whom are inborn and inbred the dominant principles of militarism is to be perpetuated from generation to generation the Hohenzollern doctrine that might is right where it can be sustained by the Prussian arms.

At Gettysburg ABRAHAM LINCOLN, in dedicating a portion of the battlefield as the final resting place for those who "gave their lives that the nation might live," said:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under GOD, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Could two utterances made under such similar circumstances more completely define the differences between the aims in this war?

Did you ever think of "the magic of an acre of walnut trees"? That enthusiastic advocate of nut culture throughout America, Dr. J. H. KELLOGG, tells all about it in the *American Nut Journal*. He says:

One acre of walnut trees will produce every year food equal to:
14,000 lbs. red bass (a ship load).
3,000 lbs. beef (five steers).
7,500 lbs. chicken broilers.
15,000 lbs. lobsters.
10,000 lbs. oysters.
60,000 eggs (5,000 dozen).
4,000 quarts milk.
A ton of mutton (13 sheep).
250,000 frogs.

Now just sit down and make your own calculation of what a million acres would produce.

How easily some of these perplexing food problems can be solved!

The swinging bridge over the Suez Canal at El Kantara, which has just been completed, will afford direct railway communication between Cairo and towns of Palestine. There is nothing, however, in the prospectus of the new enterprise to indicate that it invites the present patronage of either the Turks or the Germans in Asia Minor who are desirous of a southern railway trip.

A German periodical, the *Adelsblatt*, devoted to genealogical research, enumerates among the victims of the war 270 Counts, of whom seven belonged to the house of Dohna and seven to the house of Finck von Finckenstein, and 633 barons, of whom thirteen were of the house of Wangenheim. The losses among what is known as the "later nobility" is placed at 836, the heaviest losers being the families of the Von Wedel and Von Arnim. For a somewhat numerous family the Hohenzollerns seem to have been singularly exempt in this war from even minor casualties.

Mixed Tenses.

Of all sad words of tongue or pen
The saddest are these: "Coal won't be bin."

FOOD ON THE RAIL.

High Charges Were Made Before the War Began.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The "Colonel" in reciting his experience in a restaurant car stated that he paid 30 cents for an orange, 35 cents for two eggs and a rasher of bacon, and 25 cents for a small pot of so-called coffee.

Mr. John B. Martin, the authority on food cost, in his criticism of the Colonel's statement does not take up these items and explain why such charges are customary in restaurant cars, but he reviles the man who presents his case and says that "he was not compelled to eat in the railroad dining car."

Will Mr. Martin explain where a man travelling over the Pennsylvania Railroad from New York to Chicago can get anything to eat outside of the restaurant cars? There is no time at the division terminals.

Evidently the Colonel was not "plunging," as Mr. Martin says, but was utilizing the facilities which are provided for the travelling public and which the public have a right to assume are conducted in the proper manner.

Some years ago the writer pointed out to Mr. Cassatt, who was then president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the fact that the prices in the Pennsylvania Railroad restaurants and dining cars were so high that people of moderate means travelling with a family were compelled to provide themselves with food, as there was no provision for them to obtain refreshment at reasonable rates.

Of late years the tendency has been to provide exclusive trains, facilities and comforts for the rich in travelling, while evidently no consideration has been given to providing for the middle class and the respectable working people, who are the backbone of the country and from whom the railroads derive the greater part of their revenue.

Let us hope that the Government will make provision for feeding all classes of people while in transit at reasonable rates, and in addition that at least one coach will be run on all trains so that people of moderate means may enjoy the privilege of transportation on fast trains by paying the regular fare and a premium for the time saved.

TRENT MITCHELL.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., May 20.

BEHIND THE BARS.

A Prisoner Who Would Redeem Himself in the Trenches.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A recent advertisement of the Harriman National Bank advocating that the opportunity to retrieve themselves in Government service on the field of battle be given to men in jail has elicited numerous responses, from which we select as of possible interest to the readers of THE SUN the following letter:

Your paid ad in THE SUN May 15, 1918, on prison reform needs more than passing comment. Better far would it be if the judges would use or have power to use their judgment in the matter of placing men behind the bars for small offences of the laws.

In this jail alone we have about 300 or more able bodied men, placed here at the expense of the Government, and on investigation here I find that 90 per cent. of the crimes are non-support of family, drunkenness and giving soldiers whiskey. How much better if a fine were placed or men sent on parole to work on farms or shipyards. Many here have expressed that desire if the chance were given.

I am doing five months here for giving a soldier whiskey, while my work in the shipyard at New London, my home town, needs me. I had the money, but money was no good. Yet the Government is canvassing the country in general for money. Why not give the man, as you have stated, a chance to help his country? I am willing, and yet I am deprived, for a small offence.

The writer admits his culpability, but would fix the penalty for his crime in dollars and cents. The letter is not without logical force. Whatever economic or other objections may be held against prison labor in normal times, these are not normal times and many of those objections to-day lose weight.

THE HARRIMAN NATIONAL BANK.

NEW YORK, May 20.

WHAT TO CALL THE WAR.

Is the "War for World Democracy" Too Narrow?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The name suggested by your correspondent in THE SUN of May 12, the "war in defence of civilization," seems to very clearly define the present world conflict. The "war for world democracy" is entirely too narrow; it fails to furnish a platform broad enough for all to stand upon.

In the report I read it is significant that Mr. Wilson, in the Baltimore address omitted to mention democracy—probably owing to the dismal failure of the democratic experiment in Russia.

NEW YORK, May 20. C. G. C.

A Song of the Ships.

We must have ships, they said:
Ships for guns, ships for bread—
A shifting bridge for the shifting sea,
A path that shall lead to victory—
We must have ships.

So from the dun, slow drifting tide,
Along the river reaches wide,
Where star set beacons shine
To mark a nation's line,
Heaved up long islands then
From ready marsh and plashy fen.
And salt unstable meadows stable grew—
Each yet a miracle, although we knew
The clanking buckets of the dredge,
The ponderous yammer as the piles drove home,
Close set to hedge
The water gnome.

And as the sea was backed, the river bound,
Then the swift scaffold sprung
Even at a touch to cumber the new ground,
Housing the keels, their tentacles far flung.
And from the shops
Where blue prints had been sown
There came steel crops
Of angles, shapes and plates
To join their mates
True fashioned in some distant zone—
An ever rushing stream,
The rapt coordination of a dream.

To the riveters racing, hark!
And fiery arc on arc
The white hot arrows fly.
A shower of meteors in the sky.
Day and night, day and night,
Fight, fight, fight, fight, fight!
Erectors, caulkers and builders,
Heaters and holders on,
Buckers up, foremen whippers,
Passer boys, reamers, clackers,
Bolters up, fitters, packers—
The regiments of the ships to be—
An army of victory.

Triumph, then! Flags, flags,
The greased way and the foam.
For a moment cease, ye Brobdingnags,
As your ship slips home.

Here are your ships, they said.
Ships for guns, for men, for bread—
A shifting bridge for the shifting sea,
A path that shall lead to victory—
Here are your ships!

MAURICE MORGAN.

PODIARTY IN THE HOUSE.

A Mystery Which Ends With a Tale About a Monkey.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—"Podiarty," droned the reading clerk without so much as blinking his tongue, and the House sat up and took notice. Members had been rather attentive, anyway, because this whimsical and puzzling word came in a District bill.

It seems proper right here to explain a bit about the political status of the District. Every gentle reader knows, of course, all there is to know about the District geographically; that it is bounded on the west by Cabin John Bridge, on the north by the Chevy Chase golf links, on the south by the Potomac River and on the east by the Maryland marshes where the Lords Baltimore successively practised with their flint locks on canvasbacks—sitting, not on the wing, if a horrid legend is to be believed.

But politically? It does not seem to be generally known that Washington is neither city, town, village nor borough; that it has no Mayor, no councilmen, aldermen, no elections; that Congress acts as its legislative body and that Dr. Wilson is at present his Honor its Mayor.

So the House sat up and took proper aldermanic notice as the clerk droned through the bill or ordinance about podiarty, because if Washington was to be deprived of podiarty or have it wished upon it members had a proper purpose to know what it was all about. Mr. Longworth promptly demanded the reading of the report accompanying the bill in the hope that it would be "highly illuminating." Foolish hope! The report merely recommended the "bill, S. 2123, to regulate the practice of podiarty, do pass."

A rumor flashed to the cloak rooms, the lobbies, that some one was trying to put something over on the District, possibly to provide for the searching of certain cylindrical bundles Washingtonians have the curious habit of bringing back with them when returning from fleeting visits to Baltimore, and aldermen crowded into the chamber. The Hon. Hampy Moore, who had sent to the cubbyhole branch library in an angle of the chamber for a big book, said the word could not be found "in the dictionary to which a few of the House members are obliged to go once in a while."

Mr. Johnson of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Committee on the District and who had reported the bill, wearily admitted that he had not been able to find the word in any dictionary, but that a doctor had told him it was a medical term.

And true enough familiar spelling books ignore the word. Webster, the Century, even Littré know it not. Old Stormonth, who wrote when gentlemen, even of his cloth, drank port, gives a hint, "Podagra, gout in the feet." And Dunglison, who compiled a medical dictionary, holds a candle with "Podology, a treatise on or description of the feet."

Mr. Cooper of Wisconsin, the member who pretends that his trips to New York are to hear the opera, whereas it is known to certain correspondents that he goes there and to a certain restaurant for a dish of his favorite bouillabaisse, suggested that the word would be readily understood if members would "go back to the original Hottentot from which this world is derived."

Mr. Moore nailed another Hun lie by asserting that "we are all sprung from Hottentots," the German claim that Adam was a Prussian to the contrary and be darned to them. At last Thomas of Kentucky sent a shaft of light through the darkening councils by rising "to a parliamentary question, Mr. Speaker."

"The Speaker—The gentleman will state it.

"Mr. Thomas—I desire to know if this bill does not relate to corn doctors."

The House rose to the enlightening Kentuckian. Members tried for a long time further to tap his reservoir of knowledge. He was shy. Finally he consented to submit a few remarks and boldly asserted that podiarty was only a frivolous name for the good American title of corn doctor. Indeed, he knew some corn doctors who "call themselves podiatrists." But by any name he held in profound disesteem those who practise their art in Washington. He had experience. All they do, he said, "is to take a knife and whittle off the top of a corn, rub some grease on it and then look at you as wise as a tree full of owls and say, 'It don't hurt now, does it?' But he thought they might be useful as a war measure, saying:

Now, if you would turn loose the corn doctors in Washington on the soldiers, the American soldiers, in Europe, in the front ranks, in the trenches, and let them work upon their feet a while, those soldiers will whip anything in the world, because when the corn doctors get through with them they would not be able to retreat, but would have to fight. [Laughter.] Now, Mr. Speaker, the man who has got a corn in the city of Washington is in a bad fix. [Laughter.] It reminds me of a fellow who went on a protracted drunk down in Joe Byrns's district in Tennessee, which adjoins my district.

In such fashion did the orator refer to the Hon. Joseph W. Byrns, representing the counties of Davidson, Montgomery, Robertson and Stewart, Tennessee:

He had been drunk a long time, and he was in bed one night, and he had a shotgun sitting by his side. There was a monkey in the house in a cage. The monkey some time during the night escaped from the cage and got upon the foot of the bed of this man. He waked and he saw the monkey. He looked at it, he reached around and got his gun, he took a rest, he took aim, and he said, "If you are a monkey, you are in a devil of a fix." He said, "If you are not a monkey, I am in a devil of a fix." [Laughter.] And it is that way with a man with a corn in Washington. He is in a bad fix if he has a corn, and gets in a worse fix if he goes to a corn doctor in Washington to tinker with it.

So they passed the bill requiring that those who practise podiarty in Washington must be licensed by Dr. Wilson, Mayor of the district.

TRADE BRIEFS.

As the 85,000 tons of cottonseed oil cake produced annually in Egypt are not used locally and the lack of shipping facilities has prohibited exportation, it is planned to use this product for fuel and to thus relieve the shortage of coal which at present exists. Coal is selling in Egypt for $80 a ton, and the oil cake is worth $15 a ton. The cake ash can also be used for fertilizer and sells for $25 a ton.

Brazilian manufacturers are in the market for equipment to make vegetable oils and cigarettes.

Dry goods, hardware, shoes, perfumery, novelties, toys, films and furniture are needed in the Dominican Republic.

Peat cutting machines are wanted in Cork, Ireland. Those now in use are of German make and it is planned to replace them with American equipment.

TOBACCO AND ITS ENEMIES: A PROBLEM FOR SMOKERS AND FARMERS.

French and American Observation of the Perils Which Menace This War Time Necessary.

That farm vermin and certain parasites annually cause a considerable amount of damage to agriculture and agricultural crops has long been recognized. The need of more careful and systematic protection has been frequently discussed in the farm journals. During 1917 an inquiry was undertaken in France upon the subject of tobacco, and the results which appeared this month have aroused great interest among tobacco growers. Conditions have not been altogether favorable to profitable farming. This seems to be true of the United States, where crops of tobacco have been injured by a new parasitic disease.

If tobacco has numerous friends it has also some enemies, which are the especial subject of investigation. No other innocent pleasure has been so severely criticised as smoking. If smokers were not the most forgiving race they would long since have broken out in open mutiny at the unmerited censure imposed upon them by so-called reformers. The facts now published do not justify it. Tobacco, it is said, is conducive to the preservation of health and to a variety of other good and worthy objects. Hitherto the precious product of nature has been frequently neglected or unjustly accused. It is fortunate, therefore, that the taste for smoking is so widely spread and so firmly established. Many persons lament the spread of the custom of smoking, and chemists and a few medical men descant learnedly on the gradual effect on the nervous system which they allege it produces. But in point of fact nearly all mankind has been smoking for some centuries, and as yet the physiologists have completely failed to prove the pernicious effects of moderate indulgence. General experience would seem to show that it is not unwholesome and that the use of tobacco is to most systems agreeable and soothing. Of its sedative effect on the temper there can be no question. The occasions are innumerable where a short spell of tobacco is a remarkable corrective for an irritable temper or nervous excitement.

Upon the whole there can be no question that those who practise smoking experience a pleasurable sensation, which is desirable if it can be obtained without prejudicial consequences. It appears to those who have been studying the question lately to make people less irritable and fussy, and to encourage a reflective habit of mind. It will be very gratifying to the community of smokers to know that the weed has proved so helpful and consoling during the war. Toilers, and soldiers in particular, have had the benefit of a plant which sustains and cheers, and a man, whether he likes or dislikes smokes, is anxious to get as much harmless pleasure for the troops as he can.

But chemists and physiologists are not tobacco's chief antagonists. It has had a hard fight against nature. It appears that it is subject to certain diseases which are caused by various microbes and plants which are called by the scientific name of fungi. Among the microbes are some of the bacteria which cause putrefaction in meat and vegetables. They have been found recently in tobacco seeds, in the flowers and stems. They produce spots—leaf spots—and sometimes the whole plant perishes from their inroads. There are still other bacteria which cause canker of the leaves. This seems to be especially frequent in France this year. As it usually appears in hot months, July being the worst time, efforts are being made to stamp it out. It is also said that leaf spots and canker have shown a tendency to spread, the latter attacking the stem and in many instances destroying the whole plant. War conditions and unfavorable weather have had something to do with this pest. A strict investigation has been started, with the result that other tobacco "diseases" and their causes have come to light. One of the French investigators, G. Delacroix, describes the pest which causes an epidemic called in France "white rust," the ravages of which are almost as serious as moisture and moulds.

In addition to bacteria a species of small but poisonous mushroom attacks the seeds and young tobacco plants, and if it does not destroy them puts them in an unfavorable position for maintaining the struggle for existence. Moulds which injure tobacco plants are perhaps the most interesting to smokers. The effects of some of these may be seen by holding up a leaf in a strong light. The contrast between the pale green color and the dark green is accentuated, the first being much more transparent in the diseased plant. At the same time the leaves are more numerous, narrow and pointed, and never attain a normal growth, but ripen poorly. The tobacco thus produced crumbles easily, making fine dust, and has feeble aroma and burning qualities. The object of this knowledge is that the consumer shall be able to buy the best tobacco for his money.

Outbreaks of a still more formidable tobacco pest are reported from North Carolina in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. This is the tobacco "wildfire," particularly noted in June during rainy weather. The foliage alone is attacked by the microbe which is suspected on good grounds of being the cause. The disease originates in the seed bed or plant bed, and assumes an epidemic form at the time of topping the crop. Moisture is of primary importance in the spread of wildfire, while rain and wind disseminate the poison. These and other diseases of tobacco must receive the most earnest attention. Even when they do not absolutely destroy they set up within the framework of the leaves the changes which hurt the flavor and value of tobacco. The financial loss may be serious. Some agriculturists estimate it at $100 to $300 an acre.

In war time tobacco is regarded by most authorities as a necessary. From this they deduce the importance of these scientific investigations and of the measures to conserve the crop. It has led to a great deal of speculation upon the future possibilities of tobacco growing. The prospect is not as free from clouds as might be hoped, but this fact has not yet dawned upon the public mind. B.

'TIS "KEARNY."

A Search Covering Four Centuries Finds No Second "e."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent "M. J. O'B." says "Kearney was the original spelling." THE SUN is right and "M. J. O'B." is a "sloppy speller." Michael Kearny, ancestor of the Kearny family, Secretary of the Province of New Jersey, Surrogate, Member of Assembly, warden of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, &c., who married Sarah, daughter of Governor Lewis Morris, spelled his name "Kearny."

"M. J. O'B." says the name is spelled "Kearney" in the probate records of New Jersey. The Secretary of State writes, "I have examined the original of each of the said wills (Michael Kearny, 1742, and Philip Kearny, 1775), and find that in both instances the surname is spelled 'Kearny.'"

"M. J. O'B." states the name is spelled "Kearney" in the parish register of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Amboy, where Michael Kearny worshipped. St. Peter's rectory writes: "Kearny is spelled always without the 'e,' both on the tombstones and in the parish registers."

I have seen recently in the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, the originals of hand written deeds dated Amboy, New Jersey, and signed "Mich. Kearny" individually and officially, the — day of July, 1717, August 17, 1722, and May 2, 1726.

Michael's son, Philip Kearny, eminent lawyer and founder of the Kearny homestead at Newark, in an original letter seen by your correspondent, dated March 3, 1736, signs his name "P. Kearny."

Commodore Kearny was a descendant of Philip Kearny, Philip's son marrying Susannah Watts, daughter of John Watts, who was last Royal Recorder, New York, and founder of the Leake & Watts Orphan Asylum, and whose statue stands in Trinity church. The name is spelled with one "e" in the Trinity parish register. Philip, his son, marrying Susan Watts, daughter of John Watts, Jr., so spelled his name; (see communion set now in use, presented upon General Phil Kearny's confirmation to Calvary Episcopal Church, Fourth avenue, New York; also marriage register, Trinity Church).

General Stephen Watts Kearny, brother of this Philip Kearny and the promulgator of "Kearny's Code of Mexican Law," a copy of which is now in the Bar Association, signed his name to the code, "S. W. Kearny, Brigadier-General, U. S. A."

General Phil Kearny, son of the aforesaid Philip Kearny and lineal descendant of Michael, so spelled his name, as original letters in my possession disclose.

The Kearny genealogy, a part of the record on appeal in the case of Carey vs. Cuthbert in the House of Lords, 1870, shows that the name is so spelled from Edmund Kearny, 1507, to Philip Kearny, father of Major-General Philip Kearny, 1862. T. K.

NEW YORK, May 20.

HELPING AT HOME.

A Philadelphia Plan to Speed the Coming Victory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have noticed several letters in THE SUN lately condemning the practice of uttering sentiments critical of the Government in its conduct of the war. The following will perhaps ease the minds of a few who are not enlightened on this particular subject, and who consequently are doing more harm than good by their ignorant criticisms.

I have heard so much talk of the want felt by the dependents of the men now at the front that I would just like to inform a few of these unwarranted alarmists that there is a special fund in connection with the City Council of Philadelphia—and the other large cities, I suppose—for the assistance of needy relations of the men in the service, in addition to the regular allowance made by the Government, so that they will want for nothing in the absence of their loved ones. In order to acquaint the people with this form of assistance a number of women in the Quaker City have banded together and are holding entertainments each Saturday evening in the different wards of the city, to which are invited all who have the privilege of wearing the service pin which is presented to them by the committee.

There are motion pictures showing the arms of the service at work and at play so that the folks at home can form a better impression of the surroundings of the soldier. War ballads and patriotic national airs are sung and an orchestra contributes its service to the evening's fun.

A member of the City Council is present each evening to inform the people all about the fund that is available to be of service to those needing it and to give the address where such help may be obtained.

The Red Cross home branch also sends a representative to each meeting to tell the people where they may obtain medical attention, legal advice regarding their allowances from Washington, &c., free of charge, if needed. Then the chairman of the Women's Committee of the Emergency Aid (this is the full name of the group of loyal women who are working so hard and who are showing results, mind you) tells every one that we are going to win this war and beat the Kaiser, that she is glad to have met all present. This has the effect of creating a very friendly atmosphere, which, in fact, is the keynote of the entire evening's entertainment.

The chairman further offers the services of her associates and herself to any who, through pride or timidity, are hesitant about going to the City Councils committee for aid, and announces that she will gladly assist them in presenting their cases to the right people. But the help is preferred so tactfully and with such a fine air of democracy that few, if any, could feel any hesitant in asking for assistance.

So in this way they have strengthened Uncle Sam's second line of defence by assuring them of his consideration and assistance at all times.

I trust that the above may ease the minds of a few of your readers on the subject and prevent them from helping unconscious enemies by coming good working material for the insidious influence of cunning enemy propagandists.

Please continue to urge them to express doubts and fears in connection with war time problems until they investigated and found Uncle Sam wanting, and then to be sure that they confide their sentiments to the right person, at the right time and in the right place. AN EARNEST READER.

NEW YORK, May 20.