

The Sun AND NEW YORK PRESS

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The President's Courage.

Our neighbor the World, usually a newspaper of boldness as well as a warm supporter of President Wilson, takes a rather astonishing view of the President's appeal to Mississippi Democrats to discard Senator VARDAMAN. The World does not like VARDAMAN, but it seems to think that Mr. Wilson has made a mistake in saying that, if the voters of Mississippi renounce VARDAMAN, "I should be obliged to accept their action as a condemnation of my Administration." The World's comment is:

"This is a daring venture, and it is attended with grave dangers—with unnecessary dangers, perhaps. That VARDAMAN ought not to be in the United States Senate at this time or any other time is a matter on which most intelligent Americans will agree, regardless of party. But whether it is worth while for the President to risk his prestige as a world statesman in a contest with VARDAMAN in a State like Mississippi is quite another matter. If VARDAMAN is renominated in the primaries the President is beaten and his Administration condemned, not because VARDAMAN returns to the Senate but because the President himself made that issue."

Less timid friends of the Administration will take the view that a condemnation of the Administration by the Democrats of Mississippi will not only not risk the President's "prestige as a world statesman," but will rather act as a condemnation of Mississippi by herself. For ourselves, we do not believe that the chancelleries of Europe await with short breath the news of the fate of JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS' long haired and unworthy colleague. If VARDAMAN is likely to win, as the World seems to fear, the President's courage is so much the greater in opposing him.

What THE SUN objects to, in this war of the President upon various members of the Congress, is not Mr. Wilson's taking desperate and courageous chances, but his entering regional political fields after his ringing declaration that there was to be no more politics. If he had not said "Politics is adjourned," or if he had said "Politics is adjourned except in cases where I wish to defeat my opponent," we should regard the President's action with less disfavor, merely pointing to the unwisdom of any act by which the Executive attempts to control the legislature.

But to find fault with the President just because he has entered a contest where there is a chance of his defeat is an attitude which we scarcely expected to find taken by the World. Mr. Wilson's courage is the most admirable side of the whole affair.

The League of Nations Again.

The League of Nations is coming to the front again. Its advocates believe that such a combination will prove the most effective means of preventing the future outbreak of great wars, such as that which is now convulsing the world. They desire to keep the project in the public mind, to the end that it may receive favorable attention when the present conflict terminates.

Lord ROBERT CURRIE, one of the most influential of English statesmen, has recently expressed some views on this important subject to a correspondent of the New York Times. He says:

"I am personally doubtful whether a league can work by majority votes. For instance, I doubt whether you in the United States would accept a European view of the Mexican question, or whether we should be willing to alter the government of Ireland to suit a league of nations. We may grow, of course, but I think at present we must follow the ordinary rule in all international proceedings and must require the decisions of the league to be unanimous."

lation of an international police force with power to enforce national conformity to rules of right conduct is a counsel of perfection. The world is not ready for any such thing and it cannot be made ready except by the practical surrender of the independence of nations, which lies at the basis of the present social organization of the civilized world. Such a system would mean that each nation was liable to be lawfully controlled and coerced by a majority of alien Powers. That majority alone could determine when and for what causes and to what ends the control and coercion should be exercised. Human nature must have come much nearer perfection than it is now, or will be in many generations, to exclude from such a control prejudice, selfishness, ambition and injustice. An attempt to prevent war in this way would breed war, for it would destroy local self-government and drive nations to war for liberty. There is no nation in the world which would seriously consider a proposal so shocking to the national pride and patriotism of its people."

The only sort of a league of nations which has any present prospect of success is a league to compel each constituent member thereof to keep its word.

Every considerable nation is bound to others by two kinds of treaties: First, those general treaties, signed by many Powers, which form the basis of international law; and secondly, those separate treaties which constitute special agreements between the high contracting powers. A violation of either is readily ascertainable; and as every honorable nation presumably intends to keep its word, none need hesitate to agree that others may oblige it to do so. There would be no sacrifice of pride or patriotism in giving such a consent, where a nation is acting in good faith and intends to fulfill its treaty obligations in letter and spirit.

Such seems to us to be the limitations which must hedge about any practicable project for a league of nations after the war.

The Harpies on Our Coast.

In the history of warfare there is no more notable achievement than the success of the United States Navy in safeguarding the carriage of a million American soldiers across the Atlantic. That we are proud of our navy, therefore, goes without saying. Just now, however, the Navy Department is confronted with another important task.

Secretary DANIELS is reported as having said that the submarine raids have very little military significance. Well, the destruction of the Lusitania had comparatively little military significance. It called for drastic measures against the destroyers, just the same.

French and German Morale.

The German newspapers, particularly the strong militaristic or pan-German organs, are having a hard time explaining the reverses on the western front and at the same time heartening the German people to the possibility of still further defeats of the army. The early comments of "an insignificant surprise attack" have given way to statements similar to that made by the pan-German Deutsche Zeitung that the gain made by the Allies is "the most serious reverse of the war."

With the frank acknowledgments of the disaster to the German arms come illuminating expressions of the reception of the news by the people and its effect on the civilian population. The Cologne Volkzeitung, in advising the people to keep their spirits, says:

"In Cologne it was the day of the defeatists. With anxiety depicted on their faces they stood together, exchanging their fears and discussing the dark prospects."

The Deutsche Zeitung makes use of the defeat to lambaste the politicians who have ventured to differ with its wild jingoism. It says that the statement of Von KÜLMANN that the war could not be ended by the sword alone had a depressing effect upon the army. It hopes that the defeat will have the effect of "bringing about a state of affairs in which politicians will not agitate against the supreme command." The Post of Munich complains that Prince Henry of Prussia had tried to misrepresent the facts and says that "it is ridiculous to suppose that the importance of the events can be concealed ultimately from the people." The Vorwärts of Berlin in much the same vein calls upon the Government to tell the truth and declares that the expectations of those who wish to lead the nation through the war as if it were an ignorant child are unfulfilled.

The charges that the truth is being concealed from the people are more insistently made than at any previous time in the war. The reason given for the necessity of frankness by the Government is bluntly stated by the Vorwärts to be because it believes that the knowledge of the danger in which the German people stand would arouse their moral strength, "the weakening of which since August, 1914, is rightly complained of."

the soldiers at the front. At the same time it has been liberally fed upon the reports of victory and maps have been produced to prove gains in territory and advances in the all absorbing plans of world conquest. But what will be the effect upon a nation obsessed with the idea of militarism and gains made only by force of arms when that chief reliance fails and the military idols turn to clay?

There is reason to doubt that Germany will stand as defiantly and unflinchingly as France has stood. In the last four years, with much of the north and eastern part of the republic devastated and held in the power of the enemy, with her capital threatened and thousands of her men, women and children refugees, France has held loyally to her faith. Her struggle has been not a fight for conquest but a fight for the defence of her land and for the free institutions which she represents. In this struggle, while Germany has wailed her lack of friends, France has been sustained and upheld by the whole free and civilized world. As Germany has lost France has grown in character and power. France's strength to do and suffer has been in the righteousness of her cause.

Neither Crazy Nor Devils.

The official pronouncements issued every little while by some German General insist that the measure of the American fighters has been taken, and that it isn't an especially large size. Nevertheless there seems to be great difficulty in making the German soldiers believe it after they have encountered our boys.

Writing to a friend in Rye, ROSSER LOUIS WILSON, a member of the Fifth Marines, just reported killed, bore excellent testimony regarding this point. "One German officer we took prisoner," he said, "told us he had fought the English, French, Algerians, Canadians, and all the rest of them, but he had never fought a bunch like us, who cared not a damn for all the machine guns they had. He said they thought we were either crazy or pure devils."

An Unjust Tax Scheme.

We read that the Committee on Ways and Means, racking its brain for new sources of revenue, has devised a special tax of \$10 a year "on occupation or profession, except the war industry trades, farmers, teachers and ministers."

This plan would take \$10 a year from a street cleaner, a policeman or a fireman—from numberless men whose income ranges from \$900 to \$1,400 a year; and the farmer, who is making \$1,000 a year and getting his food besides, would go free.

This plan would take \$10 apiece from the tens of thousands of stenographers of this city alone, women who are receiving smaller salaries than most school teachers and whose living costs them more. A great many of them have been making painful sacrifices to pay instalments on Liberty bonds. To tax them and exempt farmers, teachers and ministers is absurd.

Why war industry trades are included in the exempt class is a puzzle. If there must be a head tax to support the war there is no reason why the best paid mechanics in the land should not be included. To tax a stenographer who makes \$2 a day and at the same time exempt a carpenter who makes \$3 a day is injustice.

Can't the Ways and Means Committee contrive any kind of a tax without showing in every line of the draft its consideration for and fear of the Southern voter? It is rather surprising that this latest scheme does not exclude all lawyers living south of Mason and Dixon's line.

statement until the official tape proves it wrong. Men golfers are not quite sane when they talk about their drives. Aside from those few whose brilliant play makes golf news the great majority of any club's sound players usually drive from 175 to 185 yards. Some happy day with the fairway as hard as a billiard table, with a following gap, a clean hit from the tee will carry and roll the ball 200 to 225 yards. Presto! the player thereafter nonchalantly refers to himself as a 200 yard driver.

A former woman champion, when she was in truth a slip of a girl, once drove down a level fairway and her ball came to rest near a greens committee, who knew every blade of grass on the course. When he recovered breath he exclaimed, "Two hundred and twenty-five yards, if an inch; nothing gained by grade; what breed there is against her. Well, I'll be damned!"

THE NAME "AMERICAN."

CHALLENGE TO THE MEAT EATERS. A Vegetarian Who Wants to Show the Reason of His Faith. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—At the age of 18, with nineteen years abstinence from the use of meat as a food, in active business ten hours daily, I think I can show a physique or meet a mental or physical test of any description that will prove its entire uselessness as a food, and, of far greater importance, I can clearly establish the fact that the cost of living of the average adult, under any food conditions in America, can be reduced 75 per cent. and the individual maintain perfect health, strength, weight (normal) and condition.

To avoid notoriety, I withhold my name. Should further correspondence be desired a letter to W. P. O. Box 113, Medford, Mass., will reach me. W. MURPHY, Medford, Mass., August 12.

THE BEATEN ARMIES.

They Represented Berlin's Most Vigorous Effort. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—German resources were taxed to the utmost to provide men, arms and ammunition for the July 15 drive, which was to end the war. And now the German "High Behinds" know their army has been soundly thrashed and that the strongest it ever has been or will be.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Consul A. C. Frost has sent to the district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Custom House, this city, the names of firms in Algeria who would handle agencies for American rice. There is a demand for 20,000 bags of 100 kilos each. Inquiries about this rice should be accompanied by a reference to File No. 103197.

Experiments have been made at a Portuguese agricultural school to determine the value of the potato in that country. All the tests made were satisfactory and it is predicted that the market for these machines will grow rapidly after the war. Manufacturers interested in this line should communicate with Consul-General W. L. Lewis in Lisbon.

New Zealand dairy owners have sent representatives to this country to study the manufacture of dried milk and to purchase machinery necessary for its production. It is claimed that this industry is more profitable than butter or cheese making and that butter fat can be sold at a price double that of normal times.

Shipbuilders on the southern coast of England have launched their first rivalries with the plates of the ship were joined by electric welding. Although the process is not new, this is the first time that any craft has had all of its plates fused together by electricity.

Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Rangoon, Burma, India, invites American manufacturers to send their catalogues and trade publications to the consulate, where they will be placed in the commercial reading room. The Consul will furnish information to any manufacturer about conditions in the Burma district.

Distinction of a Missouri County. From the Kansas City Times. St. Clair county has the consolation of being famous, anyway. It won fame by refusing to pay off bonds it voted in 1871 for a railroad which never cost a cent. The United States court has ordered that it can pay no salaries till the bonds are redeemed. It probably will become famous as a county in which the effect really seizes the man.

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THE NAME "AMERICAN."

A Dispassionate Reply to Mr. Wells and Professor Hayes. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. H. G. Wells in "The Fourth Year" and Prof. Ellen Hayes, in Popular Science, express judgments about our name American that are not sound. When a child is born kindly neighbors may suggest that he be called by the name of the one chosen by the parents. Sometimes a volunteer suggests a name that pleases the parents and the name is adopted. The same phenomenon occurs in municipalities. I know a village growing from a cross roads cluster which was nicknamed "Holly" by the neighbors of the neighboring village, but on attaining its independence as a borough it formally, by its charter, repudiated the offensive appellation and is named for a General of the Revolutionary War. The old name has passed into oblivion.

So in 1492, when Spain acquired against European unity, she set in a new hemisphere, composed of two continents, rivaling Europe and Africa in extent of territory. One obscure map maker said, "Let us call it the 'New World,' another 'America,' another a different name. But Spain adopted for her colonies the name of the discoverer, which is equivalent in our common experience to naming a child after his father with the addition of 'Junior.' The suggestion of geographers gave way to the name of 'New Spain,' except in Holland and England, whose navigators, Francis Drake and Hudson, were leading the way to a claim to the northern part of the new hemisphere antagonistic to that of Spain. They were acquiring new additions to their incipient empires. Again the volunteered name of America was not considered by the present countries. So we find 'New Amsterdam,' 'New Netherlands,' 'New France,' and the name 'America' remains in the clouds. The child to be named 'America' has not been born, though the beautiful name awaits, impending like a prophecy, not that the child shall be called blessed but that it shall be called by the name of the discoverer in Holland, France and England, however, called the continents 'North America' and 'South America,' names bearing no invidious connotations to the claims of any nation. Yet no nation or principality had bestowed the name of America upon a section of the world.

By what name was the newly discovered hemisphere christened? Pope Gregory named it the "New World." Portugal as well as Spain sought new off-spring on this side of the Atlantic Ocean, and it was necessary to designate the newly discovered section of the world. The names were directed. So the land east of Brazil's western boundary fell to Portugal, the territory on the west to Spain. Still the name "America" is suspended and has not been adopted either by authority or usage. The hemisphere was named by the name of the discoverer.

To all of this naming the natives of the new world were more or less oblivious or unconscious. The Sioux for all of that was a Sioux, and the Asteac and Aztec. They had names sufficient for their needs, and by what authority were they to be changed? It was a nickname and the name "America" was a bad one. A sovereign nation names itself, and the name it chooses is binding within its borders. In Independence Hall in Philadelphia will be found an exact record of the naming of America. Of all its nations now inhabiting the New World, only the United States, which first became sovereign and independent. We were the first that ever burst into that silent sea. On the wall of Independence Hall hangs the original form of the resolution submitted by Richard Henry Lee. "Resolved," it says, "That these united Colonies, by the name of the United States of America, do hereby sever themselves from Great Britain, and that they do, in Congress assembled, do hereby declare their independence, and that they do, in Congress assembled, do hereby declare their independence, and that they do, in Congress assembled, do hereby declare their independence."

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THE STATE COUNCILS OF DEFENSE.

A Plan to Utilize Them More Thoroughly in War Work. The Council of National Defense authorizes the publication of the following letter from the President to Secretary Baker commenting on the work of the State Councils of Defense throughout the country. The letter was written in response to a letter from Secretary Baker, as chairman of the Council of National Defense, outlining the past and present work of the State Councils and urging the further utilization of their machinery by Federal departments and administrations:

My Dear Mr. Baker: I have read with great interest your account of the achievements of the State Councils of Defense and your general summary of the activities in which they are now engaged. It is a notable and gratifying fact that you have expressed to the State Councils my appreciation of the services they have so usefully rendered. I am particularly struck by the varied and effective manner in which they are utilizing their organization into the smallest communities and by the truly democratic character of a national system as organized. I believe the soundness of your definition of the State Councils as that provided by the State Council system for the execution of many kinds of war work is clearly established by the fact that Federal departments and administrations, May I suggest, therefore, that you communicate to the heads of all such departments and administrations, when they are considering extensions of their organization into the States or new work to be done in the States, that they should be urged to utilize the machinery of the State Council system, thus rendering unnecessary the creation of new machinery; and that they transmit all requests for action by the State Councils through the State Councils of Defense of the Council of National Defense.

Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

ECUADOR'S GREAT DAYS.

A Republic that Rejoices in Two Annual Independence Celebrations. From the Pan-American Union. The Republic of Ecuador celebrates two national holidays, and strange to say both are "Independence Days." Both are observed on the same day, August 10, but for different reasons. The first is the anniversary of the adoption of the immortal Declaration of Independence. The second is the anniversary of the day when the patriots succeeded in gaining permanent independence. The first is the anniversary of the day when the patriots succeeded in gaining permanent independence. The first is the anniversary of the day when the patriots succeeded in gaining permanent independence.

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THE SANITARY VALUE OF TOBACCO AT THE WAR FRONT.

Recent Medical Opinion of Smoking Considered as a Protection Against Tuberculosis.

Most of the serious studies of smoking have appeared in scientific reviews. The objections to this method are twofold. In the first place, the results do not reach the public in a suitable form, for few writers are able to treat of highly technical subjects with simplicity and directness. The result is that both sides often believe that they find in these studies evidence for their own view. Secondly, the merely technical and particular accounts of tobacco are written by those who have some special point to prove. Some may be interested in showing that smoking is increasing among school-boys, or that the cigarette is more powerful than pipes and cigars. Still others try to prove that the physical effects of the nation is deteriorating and that nicotine is the cause. The most common of these assumptions is that tobacco is not a sedative, but an intoxicant, and that its effects are greatly increased by inhaling smoke. Any one reading these and various other accounts of tobacco are written by those who have some special point to prove. Some may be interested in showing that smoking is increasing among school-boys, or that the cigarette is more powerful than pipes and cigars. Still others try to prove that the physical effects of the nation is deteriorating and that nicotine is the cause. The most common of these assumptions is that tobacco is not a sedative, but an intoxicant, and that its effects are greatly increased by inhaling smoke.

A moot point has been the effect of tobacco smoke on the lungs. A careful investigation of the subject has just been made at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The most valuable part of this study relates to the inhaling of smoke and the problems of tissue change in the lungs. The author, Dr. Krause, has shown by a series of experiments that the inhalation of tobacco smoke causes a comparatively mild inflammation which is mildly stimulating to the vitality of the lung tissue. As this effect of smoking is frequently repeated, it leads in the end to repair of damaged tissue. The local effects of inhaled tobacco smoke are thus shown to be a barrier to the entrance of tuberculous germs into the lung, and when they do enter to be a force resisting the development of those germs.

The medical authorities who have followed these experiments believe further that the local irritation when it is the effect of tobacco smoke is not fraught with danger even in cases of bronchitis and consumption. There is every reason, then, to think that patients and smokers alike will be much comforted by this medical assurance that tuberculous patients should be protected from colds and catarrh, and that if smoking, and especially the inhaling of cigarette smoke, caused inflammation of the throat, the habit should be avoided. Statistics show that some irritation of the throat occurs in 27 per cent. of non-smokers, but the proportion in those who inhale cigarette smoke is higher, and the question was, therefore, whether the smoke was the cause. To non-smokers the supposition has always been convenient that cigarette smoke caused throat inflammation, but exact figures from a recent study in more than 3,000 young men discharged from the United States Army on account of consumption, the proportion of throat symptoms was no higher among smokers than among non-smokers.

As tuberculosis of the lungs often follows colds, it has been assumed that inflamed tissue was more liable to bacterial invasion than a healthy tissue. Dr. Krause combats this conclusion, and shows by examples from medicine that inflamed tissue is rarely the site of bacterial invasion. Erysipelas, for example, a form of inflammation of the face, arises more often from healthy skin. Inflamed tissues, it is found, are points of unusual resistance to germs and the infections they carry. The protective action of tobacco smoke in the chest appears to be of this nature. The inhalation of tobacco smoke causes a comparatively mild inflammation which is mildly stimulating to the vitality of the lung tissue. As this effect of smoking is frequently repeated, it leads in the end to repair of damaged tissue. The local effects of inhaled tobacco smoke are thus shown to be a barrier to the entrance of tuberculous germs into the lung, and when they do enter to be a force resisting the development of those germs.

REKIPROKITY.

Horrible Effects of Kultur on Students of Latin. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In regard to "Germanized" Latin, why not do away with the pronunciation which to a great extent defeats the great end of the study of Latin? It is valuable to us largely as an assistance in the comprehension of our own language. When I attended Miss Brackett's school the pupils carried derivation books to all the classes, and were expected at any time to give the Latin root of any word selected by the teacher from either text book or recitation.

The so-called Continental pronunciation confused us beyond a doubt, and I feel that the very valuable habit of deducing definition from the Latin root would be much simplified and more often found if the Continental pronunciation did not veil the derivation and make an effort of what would be otherwise an almost unconscious application of our knowledge.

My sons have often mispronounced English words with Latin roots owing to the German pronunciation of Latin which they were taught, one of the most remarkable examples being "rekiprocity." New York, August 12. M. H. S.

Let Culture Drive Out the Affections of Kultur.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—One criterion of a gentleman I unhesitatingly assert myself to possess—I have forgotten Greek. But Latin is another matter. Every educated man must have some acquaintance with it, and the chances are that he will make some use of it. Hence, thanks are due to Professor Champlin for his article in Friday's Sun on "Germanized Latin."

Fifty years ago when I began the study of Latin there was still a controversy between the "English" and the "Continental" pronunciation. In this country the advocates of the former were probably to be found mostly among the lawyers. A good many years later, when I was a student at Harvard, it was Mr. Choate's referred in an address to the dismay with which he heard "a young gentleman from Harvard" assert in argument "kee farkit pare alium farkit pare yay"—his rendering of the maxim on which is based the law of principal and agent.

The "Continental method" was well established in the schools and colleges before I left the Episcopal Academy, and another "young gentleman from Harvard" began as classical master the connection with the school which culminated in a long and successful reign as head master. After I had left school, and after he had been studying and writing at the University of the Sorbonne, I found him an advocate of the "Italian" method, on the theory that the continuity of speech in the "Rome of Caesar, Rome of Peter" made it likely that the Italians speak something nearer to classical Latin than any other people. How far he carried this theory of his I do not know, but I do know that he wrote four letters to their sons in France that it is partly their fault that their boys do not receive them. While our boy is away at college or in a distant State we are both quite content if we each get one letter a week, for one in two weeks we write our own week by four is it any wonder the post offices are swamped? Be reasonable and write fewer letters, then some of our boys who have been waiting patiently will get theirs.

A MOTHER OF A SOLDIER. EAST ORANGE, N. J., Aug. 12. Germans. She tried to be the Sea. And she tried to be the waves. The world of civility. The good, the true, the brave, in vain her cruelty. Her strength was but a mockery. But France has been the Rock. She tried to be the Rock. And stand against the tide. To scorn the thunder shock Of ocean on her side. She crumbles to the shock. To billows that are free. She tried to be the Rock. But England is the Sea. McLANE WILSON.

Work for the German Navy and Merchant Marine.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—When the war is over our boys will be eager to return home as we shall be to receive them. One of the peace stipulations should be that all German vessels, warships included, and sailing the while under the flags of the Allies, should be utilized to carry to their respective destinations the troops from America to Canada. Austria, Italy, and the rest of the latter this coming winter. A good suggestion would be to have all employees have small placards printed bearing the concise but potent injunction: "Please turn off your light when not in use." The old adage of "Waste not, want not" is still in effect. FRANKLIN. New York, August 12.

News Wanted of Rivington Place.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—When a boy, many years ago, I lived with my parents in Rivington place, which street, between Goerck and Lewis streets, I have visited the locality many times within the last few years in endeavor to find the spot, but have been unsuccessful. I have also inquired of many now residing in that vicinity, but no one seems to know anything about it. I am, therefore, hoping that some of your older subscribers may be able to give me the desired information. WILLIAM A. BROWN. New York, August 12.