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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1915.

Just a Gentle Reminder

THIS year it ought not to be necessary to remind the good people of Richmond to do their Christmas shopping early. That appeal to the Christmas spirit in its best manifestation ought not to go unanswered, for no one of us is any longer in a position to plead ignorance. We all know that if we put off to the last it will mean weariness and suffering to the employees of the stores at which our purchases are made.

What Ails the Doctors?—Editorial caption in the New York World. That's what the doctors are supposed to ask about their patients.

Removing Temptation

GEORGE J. SEAY'S suggestion, as governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, that the three-quarters of a billion dollars of bank reserve, consisting of country-bank deposits in city banks, be no longer counted as legal bank reserve, in order to remove temptation to speculation and over-expansion, is backed by sound common sense. Money in the pocket is all too likely to burn a hole in it.

A holy war against the French in Algeria is announced by Abdul Kadir and Arab chiefs. The word "holy" applied to war is on a par with "kuffar" when that word is similarly applied.

Too Many Short Skirts

It is a striking commentary on the fashions of the day that Sheriff Lucretia Roberts, of Santa Cruz County, Ariz., makes when she gives as one of her reasons for not liking the East that there are "too many short skirts on women." Mrs. Roberts may be assumed to be free from any suspicion of modesty; doubtless, she comes in contact with corners of life of considerable roughness, and it is fair to suppose that she is not accustomed to see "prunes, poultry, prisms," before she appears in conversation with a man. But Mrs. Roberts' free and widespread immunity of woman's apparel to-day appears to be a bit too strong even for her breezy Western mind.

At a teachers' convention a schoolboy, in a demonstration of Latin derivatives, wrote: "A dog's tail goes vice versa." That boy may be raw in his Latin, but he has the idea, so far as the dog is concerned.

Why Not Find Out?

It really does not seem that the problem of dealing with the city's garbage should cost the Administrative Board so much brain fag and weariness of spirit. If the directors of a business corporation were faced with a like problem, they would not find it impossible of solution.

In the first place, probably, they would employ a recognized and impartial expert to investigate and determine whether the methods at present followed are productive of the best results. If changes were suggested by this expert, they would be made. In the next place, the corporation directors would consider whether they could get the work done as well or better and more cheaply by letting a contract for all or any part of it. To this end they would invite bids, permitting prospective bidders to understand that the invitation was not a mere bluff, and that if a really favorable proposition were made it would be accepted.

We commend this course to the Administrative Board.

Of course, Mr. Ford's ship that is to sail with notables, who will constitute the crew, will be laden with Christmas stockings for the "boys in the trenches," which they will take home with them filled with Ford checks.

Swords and Sense

FROM the British lines in France comes a story of King George's latest visit to the front that is curious in more than one aspect. For the review that was contemplated hundreds of young officers were required to supply themselves with swords, which had formed no part of their equipment. The swords were never used, because the accident the King suffered prevented the review being held.

Time was when the sword was the inviolable symbol of military rank. Now it has utility as a weapon of offense or defense, emblem

serves only to mark the wearer for the enemy's sharpshooters. So it is discarded. That fact the little story from France brings forcibly to mind, but the striking circumstance is that the British general staff should ever have thought it appropriate to revive the antiquated custom. Certainly, the King would not have approved had he known. War is a serious business nowadays—more serious than it has ever been—and there is little room for senseless display. Somehow, this insignificant incident stresses a conviction long entertained—that Field Marshal Sir John French does not possess the qualities that entitle him to the principal command of the British armies in the field.

The Middle West and Northwest, according to reports received by the It-is-so New York Sun, are as determined to snatch the crumie of Justice Hughes from his shoulders and fling it in the ring as was the old State of Maine when it went bent for Governor Kent.

Engineering and Finance

BETWEEN the plans to extend the West End avenues across the Belt Line tracks, as proposed by the City Engineer's Department, on the one hand, and the railroad officials, on the other, there is a conflict that appears almost irreconcilable. The Times-Dispatch will do what it can to assist Richmond in this difficulty. Under the auspices of this newspaper, an investigation of the whole complicated subject will be made. That investigation will be expert, unbiased, authoritative. It is our hope and belief that when its results are given to the public they will aid materially the right solution of this vexed problem.

But there is another problem, the solution of which must precede decision whether the tracks shall cross under or over the West End avenues. It is the question of finance. Richmond must make up its mind whether it is now in position, financially, to defray its share of the large expense that the complete project will represent. Conservative opinion will answer that question in the negative.

Richmond has much to answer for in the shape of territory recently annexed and clamoring for improvement. In the northern and western suburbs there are broad areas for which the city has done little or nothing. There are miles of streets that ought to be graded, at least, and some of which ought to be paved. There are lights that ought to be installed and sewer and water mains that ought to be extended.

There is the further need of economy in municipal expenditures. Last year's accumulated deficit of half a million dollars will be carried over into next year. Of course, it is possible to absorb it by new bond issues, but the sound sense of the people of Richmond will lead them assuredly to rebel against that unscientific method of meeting their obligations. This is especially true when it is realized that the public debt of Richmond approaches the bond limit, and is among the highest per capita of all the cities in the country.

More economies, it is true, will not remove this handicap on Richmond's growth, but that fact does not lessen the duty of the authorities to economize wherever wisdom permits. What is needed is the abolition of the constitutional prohibition of assessments for public improvements, a change which would place Richmond and other Virginia municipalities on an equal footing with the cities of other States. Were that change made, the Belt Line crossings would become relatively easy to finance. Until it is made, all considerable works of public betterment, when considered, as necessarily they must be, in connection with the gradual extension of city conveniences to the annexed territory, will present large and serious difficulties.

The crying need for extension in the West End is that of Monument Avenue. Other streets, assuredly, so far as Belt Line crossings are concerned, may well await a lightening of the city's financial strain and, perhaps, a change for the better in the city's method of financing improvements. It is difficult to see any sound reason why Monument Avenue should not cross the Belt Line at grade, if that plan is recognized as temporary, and based explicitly on a future purpose to undertake a more expensive and adequate solution of the difficulty.

Terrific Fighting on the Italian Front.—News headline. Why this specific information? It is no different from the fighting on the western front in Flanders, or on the eastern front, and it is about the same brand as that which is being handed out on the Serbian line.

The Riddle of Education

CRITICISM of education has reawakened with Mr. Taft's advocacy of Federal supervision of schools. Again we may expect to witness our leading educators denounce American educational methods and bewilder the country with vague and conflicting plans of reform.

But failures and radical changes were to be expected in our education, and they merely point the path of progress. We took our teaching from the English, and our first colleges faithfully ground the classics into their hands of students. This did well enough in America, as in England, when college students were chiefly rich or well-to-do, but it failed when we came to democratize higher education. Latin and Greek are very difficult to master, and they do little to equip a youth for success in the workaday world.

This fact led to a reaction against the classics. Into extended curriculums and superficial teaching. Students were taught a little of everything, and, quite naturally, knew nothing of anything. Our schools graduated youths who could not spell and write English, but whose heads were stuffed with an ill-digested mass of general information.

Thoughtful men for some time past have been in rebellion against such results; they demand something better, and even cast eyes of despair back towards the classics. But they are behind, and we must look forward. Indeed, the problem is not so difficult as it seems. It is necessary for our schools and colleges to take the resolution of teaching the rudiments with ruthless thoroughness. This done, a wide choice may be left the student. A man may know neither Latin nor biology and be educated; he cannot be educated if he lacks the power of thinking clearly and expressing himself intelligibly.

Just as this country, through one of its citizens, is preparing to launch a peace crusade abroad, the Women's Social and Political Union in London is organizing a revolt against Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter. The Dove will never have a show in Great Britain until the Pankhursts are eliminated from the ring.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Warning to Peace Shippers. Our old pal, William Jennings B. And Henry Ford both want to see "The early dawn of peace." So Henry has invited Bill To sail on his peace ship that will Strive to make fighters cease. And Henry Ford sends out a plea To friends of William Jennings B. To join the motley throng Which plans to make the war dogs wild. So gentle, lovable and mild That they can do no wrong.

But this advice, as sound as free, We hand to Hen and William B. "Don't get too near the Alps. For if you should you there may find Those war dogs simply will not mind— And you may lose your scalps."

Tattlings.

In the estimation of some married women, men are necessary evils. Before you tell a man what you think of him size him up. There is a theory among many women that it is easier to love a man than let some other woman love him.

It is the same in all lines of business. The man who operates a wheelbarrow cannot succeed without a push.

While speaking well of the dead, remember that kind words are appreciated by the live ones. If you have to strike somebody for a loan, select a pessimist; he doesn't expect to get it back.

The Penitent Sings

If you will not do your own Christmas shopping early, exercise your obvious talent for being disagreeable by making other shoppers uncomfortable.

One Form of It.

Grubbs—They tell me Binka is very much interested in music. Stubbs—I suppose he must be. At any rate, he is an expert at blowing his own horn.

"You were over at Philadelphia the other night?" asked a Richmonder of his neighbor. "Yes. Went to see a play called 'Marie-Odile.'" "So! How did you like it?" "Plays all right, but they've got the wrong name for it." "What would you call it?" "For the Love of Mike."

Useless Ciphers.

The chorus man, "suffragette's husband," "man who knows it all," "wears a wrist watch," "sport shirt," "girl," "castle hair cut," "man," "is his wife's poodle nurse."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The man who asks his wife when he may go out, "don't know how to talk baby talk," "can't make his wife laugh at his jokes."

Quite Weak.

"Does this client of ours," inquired the senior member of the firm of distinguished legal lights, "appear to be provided with a good defense?" "Not very," responded the junior partner, "I have been through his possessions, and all I could find was \$7.50."

Inevitable.

Me—Do you believe in preparedness? She—I certainly do not. If a girl is not allowed to say, "This is so sudden" she is deprived of half the fun.

Skunks Say:

I have the sort of clothes which a man ought to wear when he goes out in the evening. I am by nature socially inclined. But every time I have attempted to butt into society I have met a man who asked me, "How are they coming?" or who opened the conversation with remarks about the weather, and who at the hour of departure remarked, "Well, so long," or "See you later." The only game that suits me is solitaire about fifty miles from faces.

If a stranger from another planet should visit this country and attend a very swell function he would be prompted to inquire why the tax on women's wearing apparel was so heavy that the votaries of fashion were forced to wear so little.

Modern Magic.

There was a little girl Who had a little curl That hung right down on her shoulder; That little curl was brown, Which made its owner frown— 'Twas gold ere she grew much older.

Chats With Virginia Editors

"In Bristol, Tenn.," says the Bristol Herald-Courier, "life is just one blamed election after another." Isn't it pretty much the same way in Bristol, Va.?

"Thanksgiving Day," says the Roanoke Times, "was labor day for the President as well as for the newspaper men of the country." It was likewise labor day for the hotel men and the street-car men here in Richmond.

The philosopher who presides over the destiny of the Chase City Progress gravely remarks: "You shouldn't lose sight of the fact when Christmas time rolls 'round that you are a year older than you were last Christmas and your discretion should be better."

"The greater Gratitude, of the Chesapeake and Potomac Steamboat Company," says the Newport News, "is that the stevedores seem to have no sense of the eternal fitness of things." That may be because they are run by human beings.

"In every community," says the West Point News, "there are men who sit tight and watch the procession go by. Finally they wake up and ask themselves why they did not get in on the boom. It will be so in West Point." And West Point is no exception to the rule. Even bigger towns are thus afflicted.

The Hampton Monitor, which is authority on the subject here treated, says: "There has never been as many crabs in the Hampton Roads section as are being caught at the present time. Those who are crying that the crab is being extinguished should see the big cargoes of them coming into the market. They are not only being caught in large quantities by the dredge boats, but also the trot liners have been doing well. A little more cold weather, however, and their days will be numbered."

The Northern Neck News advocates the passage of a law which would force those counties and districts in the State which issue bonds for the purpose of building roads to retain a certain portion of the sum obtained for the upkeep of

the roads built. This is an excellent suggestion, and worthy of the most serious consideration at the hands of the incoming Legislature—Mathews Journal. The same suggestion has been before at least two outgoing Legislatures, but without effect.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From Newspaper Files, November 30, 1865.)

General U. S. Grant spent a short while in Richmond yesterday on his way to Petersburg and the South. He was met at the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad by General Terry and staff and escorted to headquarters. He was also escorted to the depot where he departed for Petersburg. The general's modest, quiet demeanor attracted attention in Richmond yesterday. While at the Hyrd Street Depot he sat quietly in the smoking car with Beverley Robinson, Esq., of the local bar, and a citizen's clothes, serenely smoking a cigar, and speaking only when he was spoken to. General Grant is on a trip southward, and it is rumored that his main mission is to serve notice of ejection on Maximilian in Mexico.

The temperance cause, so long asleep in this part of the world, seems to be waking up. A State convention is to assemble in Petersburg Wednesday of next week, which bids fair to be a large, intelligent and energetic body. Richmond is to send a fine delegation, and other delegates will be there from all parts of the State.

An attempt was made night before last to assassinate John E. Laughton, Jr., clerk in the store of E. B. Cook & Co., Mr. Laughton was returning to his home on Fifth Street, between Clay and Leigh, and when near the corner of Clay, a burly ruffian jumped in front of him and tried to fire a pistol in Mr. Laughton's face, but the weapon snapped, and then the ruffian retreated. No demand was made for money, and so assassination must have been the object.

Thomas Suttle, a staunch Union man, has been elected president of the North Carolina State Senate.

Virginia and Tennessee are the only Southern States that have sent up to the clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington credentials of Congressional elects.

General B. F. Butler is said to be frequently closeted in Washington with prominent members of the radical wing of the Republican party who are members of Congress, and it is believed his influence, which will be used against the South at every point, will be very powerful in Washington the coming winter.

After all the noise raised in California about the purchase of a home for the widow of John Brown, the insuranceist, only \$126 has been raised so far.

The sum of \$1,100 has been paid to Mrs. Washington, widow of Lewis Washington, of Virginia, a Confederate officer, in compensation for household property seized by United States authorities and sold during the war.

The British minister at Washington has formally laid claim to 360 hogsheads of tobacco which have been stored in Richmond for several months, and which were about to be removed by United States government agents to New York, it having been seized under the confiscation act.

Queries and Answers

W. C. T. U. Is each member of the W. C. T. U. allowed to wear the white ribbon badge?—READER. Certainly.

Corporations. Please give the locations of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, the Bethlehem Steel Works, and the Remington Co. E. O. SCHAEPFER. In your order, Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Pa., 625 Broadway, New York City, is a principal one.

Artisans. To whom should I apply for membership in the Daughters of 1812? What is the best for widow's dower in Virginia? Is the old Manchester Cotton Factory still in existence? Mrs. LeRoy Brown, 94 West Grace, Richmond, Va. The widow has a life one-third of the husband's real estate. No.

American-Made Wares. Is it true that American machines may be bought abroad for less than at home, and if so, why? It is true in many cases. The reason is simple. The tariff on machinery imported into the United States is fixed for the "protected" home manufacturers, so that the duty charges added to the cost of the foreign article will make a total so great that the machine may not be sold below the price of the home-made machine. In markets where American machinery and European machinery pay either no duty or the same duty, this discrimination vanishes, and in order to compete with the foreign-made article, the original price of which is generally far below that of the American.

The Voice of the People. Believes Big Navy Impediment. Sir,—Of course, the article in the Times-Dispatch on November 21 shows that he is a learned and profound man. It is not a fact that a victorious nation in a war is more formidable for fighting than when it begins it. It is not true that the army of the North was far more powerful at the close of the War Between the States than it was when the war began. Does not history show that conquering nations were not exhausted by one war, but that divine utterance, upon which hangs all the law and prophets, does not control mankind. The United States may not need a large standing army, but it should have an army second to none. PROVIDENCE FORGE, Va., November 26, 1915.

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Romania of Boris of Bulgaria. Mention of Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria in Soda dispatches, which said that he had returned to the front, recalls the love affair between him and the Russian Emperor's eldest daughter, the Princess Olga. The engagement has been reported on two occasions, and the prince's visits to the Czar have given color to the romance. He knows Petrograd better than any city outside his own country, and prefers it to any other foreign city. Prince Boris is only twenty-one years old, and is the eldest of four children of King Ferdinand's first marriage to the Princess Marie Louise of Parma. While King Ferdinand remains a Roman Catholic, Prince Boris is a Greek Catholic. The prince's conversion, which took place at the early age of two years, was a condition demanded by Russia in return for Russian recognition of Ferdinand as King. When only four years old, the little prince astonished the Russian court on his first visit to Petrograd by his precocious knowledge of the niceties of etiquette.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Current Editorial Comment

Berlinese Complain Concerning Women. One of the minor complaints the Berliner is making in his newspapers concerns the poor service given by the women who are employed as conductors on the tram and omnibus lines of the city. They are slovenly in the wearing of their uniforms, unpunctual in the running of their cars, irregular in the ringing of their bells, and far too much interested in what is happening on the street. One of our Telegrams says they think too much of their coffee, referring, presumably, to their lunch hour. The omnibus companies are said to find them undependent in reporting for duty and difficult to discipline. It seems rather surprising to murmur, however, since their husbands are wet-hearts are on the firing line.—Denver News.

Constructive Plans for Lasting Peace in Essential Demands, as Dr. David Starr Jordan correctly says, and of these the foremost are democratic control of governmental action in international affairs and the use of law instead of force in the adjustment of differences. The use of law, however, implies the existence thereof, and to bring the law into existence a council of nations or world congress is required. Lest the law be made into scraps of paper—and there is a danger that it has been—some force must be provided to back up the law. This offense during the present war—some force would be required in the nature of an international police. A mere statement of the requirements shows how far any constructive peace plan is from realization. But necessity has been the mother of invention; and the nations are under a terrifying necessity of beginning to invent other than destructive means for insuring peace.—Philadelphia Record.

Ultimatum to the Pork Barrel One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the St. Joseph News Press.

DEFENSE RECORD OF JEWISH SOLDIERS

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I desire to enter a protest against the misleading tendency of the headline over an article in your issue of Sunday. Had the writer of the headline stopped to compare figures I am sure he would not have written as he did. The article in question stated that out of a Jewish population of approximately 211,990 (the correct figure is somewhat less) in the British empire and eligible for enlistment in the army, 15,000 had enlisted and were serving at the front. To this item your office put a rather prominent headline to the effect: "New Jewish Enlistment."

Let us make a few comparisons. The percentage of Jews enlisted to the total eligible Jewish population is approximately 5 per cent. How far is this percentage carried out in general? The population of the Russian empire is 169,000,000. Nine per cent of that would be 15,210,000. The Russian army is hardly that large. The population of Austro-Hungary is, in round figures, 52,000,000. Nine per cent of that would be 4,680,000. The ranks of the dual monarchy are hardly that numerous. The population of Germany is also in round figures, 70,000,000. Nine per cent of that would be 6,300,000. Marvellously efficient as Germany's war machine, yet I venture to say, its units do not equal those of the British empire, where military service is compulsory.

British alone of the great states at war, has the volunteer system. The United Kingdom has a population of approximately 45,000,000. This does not include Canada, India, Australia or New Zealand. Nine per cent of this would be 4,050,000. How many men has England in the field? Kitchener says there will be 5,000,000 in the spring of 1916. But now, with all the appeals from billboards, pulpits, cabinet and

the King himself, one is very liberal in estimating if one gives 3,000,000. The percentage of the total Jewish population, eligible and ineligible for enlistment, to that of the United Kingdom is one-half of 1 per cent. At this rate the normal quota of Jewish soldiers in an army of 3,000,000 would be 15,000. But there are 18,000, or 20 per cent more than their quota. Yet your headline said "New Jewish Enlistment." How can we square his statement with the facts, even as given in the item itself?

Indeed one of the marked features of this war has been the very large enrollment of Jews as soldiers, altogether out of proportion to their percentage of population. Even in Russia, where God knows a Jew has no reason to fight for the government of the Czar, the number of Jews in soldiers in the Russian army is double that which their quota would require. The London Times, possibly even yet the leading British newspaper, recently commented on this fact, since its talking over by a new management some time ago. The Thunderer has not been over friendly to the Jews for the reason that it has sought to justify that most miserable moral mesalliance, the Anglo-Russian compact, and in order to please the Czar it seeks to condone the Russian Jewish persecutions by blaming the Jews. But even the Times recognized and remarked upon the more than average generous and patriotic support which the Jews have given to the empire. Hence your headline has a tendency to convey a misleading and unjust impression, and against this I most earnestly protest. A final word as to their conduct at the front. Three Jews, one officer and two privates, have earned and received the Victoria Cross, the most distinguished and the most coveted badge of honor that England gives for gallantry on the battle field. Respectfully yours, EDWARD S. CALISCH, Rabbi of Beth Abahab.

Football and Life

The glory of football is that it furnishes a struggle in which a man can be an absolute partisan. No Yale man questions that the Englishman who wins Harvard men and Princeton men can be as certain. They can be loyal without a quiver of conscience, they can desire victory without thinking of consequences. Whenever they happen to belong there, they stand by their faith. And even those Englishmen who go from Yale to the Harvard law school may be for Yale and no questions asked.

If only life were like football, what a splendid education Young America would be receiving. It would be learning that loyalty is greater than discrimination, that the crowd you are in is the best crowd of all, that you are a freshman who wanted to see Harvard win because Harvard contributes to human culture would be an ass. He would be treated by his classmates as Englishmen are treated by their fellow-student German professors. For the point you are trained to in intercollegiate athletics is that there are only two sides to a question, and that the side you are against must be recommended to.—The New Republic.

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Constabulary Kultur.

The police in Manhattan are scholarly. A warning reads: "Do not diagonally in crossing areas."—Lynn, Mass. Item.

In the Highlands.

In the highlands, in the country places, Where the old plain men have rosy faces, And the young, fair maidens, Quiet eyes, Where essential silence cheers and blesses, And forever in the hill recesses, Her more lovely music Broods and dies. O to mount again where erst I haunted, Where the old red hills are bird enchanted, And the low green meadows Bright with verdant grasses, And when even dies, the millon-tinted, And the night has come, and planets glistened, Lo! the valley hollow, Lamp-battered, O to dream, O to awake and wander There and with delight to take and tender, Through the trance of silence, Quiet breath, Lo! for there, among the flowers and grasses, Only the mightier movement sounds and passes; Only the winds and rivers, Life and death, —Robert Louis Stevenson.

Don'ts for Poets

"Don't think of yourself as a poet, and don't dress the part." "Don't classify yourself as a member of any special school or group." "Don't call your quarters a garret or a crib." "Don't frequent exclusively the company of writers." "Don't think of any class of work that you feel moved to do as either death you or above you." "Don't complain of lack of appreciation. On the long run no really good published work can escape appreciation." "Don't think you are entitled to any special rights, privileges and immunities as a literary person, or have any more reason to consider your possible lack of fame a grievance against the world than has any shipping clerk or traveling salesman." "Don't use 'er for 'ever,' 'er for 'over,' 'whens' or 'what time' for 'when,' or any of the 'poetical' commonplaces of the past." "Don't say 'did you' for 'went,' even if you need an extra syllable." "Don't omit articles or prepositions for the sake of the rhythm." "Don't have your book published at your own expense by any house that makes a practice of publishing at the author's expense." "Don't write poems about unborn babies." "Don't—don't write hymns to the Great God Pan. He is dead; let him rest in peace." "Don't write everybody else is writing."—Arthur Guiterman, in New York Times.