

Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE TIMES-Dispatch Founded.....1858 THE DISPATCH Founded.....1858

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1915.

Open Virginia to Motorists

COMPARED with the benefits that would result, the \$12,000 needed to complete the highway between Richmond and Washington is a very small sum, and there should be little difficulty in raising it. As is generally known, the road from Richmond to Fredericksburg already is in good condition. There remains to be put in order only the stretch between Fredericksburg and Washington, when Virginia will be opened to motorists from the North, a most desirable class of tourists, who now are practically barred from the State, except by the Valley route.

Italian soldiers will soon be fighting in our shoes. This ought to make them sure-footed.

Another Claim to Fame

GOVERNOR-GENERAL VON BISSING, who rules Belgium for Germany, won an unenviable immortality when he signed the death warrant of Edith Cavell and directed that she be hurried to execution at 2 o'clock in the morning. As his connection with the story of William Tell has made the name of Gessler eternally infamous, so Von Bissing will conquer oblivion because he assisted in the making of a martyr.

But, according to reports from Holland, the Governor-General is not content. He would make assurance doubly sure. He is reputed to have protested against the return to Brussels of Brand Whitlock, the American minister. It is very possible, Mr. Whitlock has shown German rule in Belgium of some of its horrors. In Von Bissing's view, that, doubtless, is a crime.

In dropping Mr. Bryan from his entourage, it must be conceded that Ford is sincere in wanting peace.

Harmless Passports

OUR government has handled the Ford peace propaganda with characteristic tact and common sense. If an esteemed American citizen with plenty of money thinks that he can restore peace to the world by his personal intervention, there seems no good reason why he should not try—provided he does not involve this country in new foreign complications.

The State Department has made no effort to interfere in the Ford mission, but it has issued passports to members of the party to travel in neutral countries alone. The peace proposer can come to no harm, even if they accomplish his goal, so long as they remain on the neutral soil of Holland or Scandinavia; they might cause grave trouble if they attempt to land in England, France or Germany. Should they attempt such a landing without evidence of American citizenship in the form of passports, they must accept the consequences, whatever they may be.

England's Press Agents

SOME years ago a story went the rounds about an incident in the Metropolitan Opera House. It seemed that a baby of a wardrobe mistress began to cry and the mother couldn't hush it. The motherly Schumann-Henk took the child in her lap and began to sing softly to it. Mme. Gadski passed by, took in the situation and joined in the lullaby. Then came Pol Piancon, Jean de Reszke, Edouard de Reszke and a few of the lesser lights. Together they sang that baby to sleep, and the general director estimated that if he had paid them for their joint slumber song, according to their respective salaries and the time occupied, it would have cost about \$5,000.

This suggests speculation as to what it would cost the British government to pay for the services of its press agents, who are working feverishly for the love of country. In some cases, they are being paid by publishers, but in many others they are contributing copy that would command almost its own price. For these press agents are not mere space-fillers, but include men whose names rank high in the literary world. Rudyard Kipling, Sir Gilbert Parker, Conan Doyle, Cosmo Hamilton and John Massfield are only a few who are using their fine talents for their country's good.

Satan's Answer

IN recent years there has been a very notable tendency among religious teachers to ignore, and even to deny, the existence of Satan. While the world at large continues to accept the great part of Christian theology, belief has waned in a "Personal Devil."

This unbelief is supposed to be based on rationalistic grounds, though few things are more unreasonable than the conclusions of reason. If one thing stands out in the

world—more prominently than ever before—it is the terrible fact of the existence of evil. If there is any doctrine which might justly be inferred from the facts of life and the experience of mankind, it is that of the existence of some great and malign intelligence which stands behind nature and wars everlastingly with good.

We might indeed be inclined to deny this in the pleasant, lazy years of peace. But in the face of the horror convulsing Europe at the present hour, belief in an evil agency is the only satisfactory explanation of those facts which make us freeze and shudder. It is not just to make God solely responsible for the misery and wickedness of man, and it is hardly charitable to impute man's guilt and suffering wholly to his own innate depravity.

The Boston Transcript says that the suspicion deepens that Colonel Roosevelt not only knows mighty well what's the matter with this country, but how to fix it. He didn't seem to know exactly what was the matter when he was President, and when he undertook to fix what he thought was the matter, he made the job look like a table of after-dinner dishes.

Italy in the Balkans

THERE has been no more important and significant announcement in all the recent history of the war than that made by the Italian government that it adheres to the treaty entered into by Italy's allies not to conclude a separate peace. Accompanied as it was by the declaration of Italy's purpose to assist the allied campaign in the Balkans and by the landing of new Italian forces at Avlona, Albania, it will go far toward reviving French, British and Russian confidence. Evidently the mission of Lord Kitchener to Paris and Rome is bearing fruit. There are other signs than this of a new co-ordination of allied strategy and a new stiffening of allied purpose. In the armies that form on the Roumanian frontier, Russia displays her share in the enterprise. The next Russian offensive, says an Associated Press dispatch from the eastern front, will be measured in terms of millions of men, rather than in terms of army corps. General Joffre has been promoted to the supreme command of all the French forces in the field, save those operating in Africa.

Italy has not shown a disposition to act in unison with the other members of the quadruple entente. Hammering away at Gorizia, continuing the slow advance toward Trent, she had shown a singular indifference to the progress of affairs in Serbia and Montenegro, to the just apprehensions of Roumania and the stubborn attitude of the Grecian King. Something has served to convince the Italian ministry that it must be prepared to contribute more generously than it has yet contributed to the attainment of the common end. Italy has plenty of troops to spare 200,000 for a Balkan expedition. She has plenty of incentive, for her ambitions extend to the control of Albania and an Adriatic hegemony, and these ambitions are entirely inconsistent with German hegemony in the Balkans. She must defeat that particular German aspiration if she would realize her own.

Neither Greece nor Roumania will watch unmoved this manifestation of Italian interest in Balkan affairs. In the Adriatic, Greece has dreams of her own, and, though she has kept them in leash, she will not surrender them permanently save on reasonable assurance of compensation in the Aegean and on the shores of Asia Minor. If Italy takes Greece's place in the Balkan strife and the allies are victorious, Greece will have small part in the division of the spoils. The appeal to Roumania is twofold. In the first place, its people are Latin, with a natural racial sympathy for the Italian cause, and, in the second place, the presence of Italian armies will go far toward supplying that assurance against the devastation of their country which Roumanian leaders have declared must accompany entrance into the war.

Trying to predict how the Balkan cat will jump is a precarious business, subject to many uncertainties, but all the indications are that the next leap of that sprightly animal will be in the direction of the allied camp.

Much Ado About Nothing

MUCH ado about nothing is being made over the temporary removal of the Second Police Station to Sycamore and Cary Streets. Broad Street merchants justly demand adequate police protection, but the transfer of the station-house cannot affect that in the slightest degree. Policing of the streets is done by patrolmen, and not by the proximity of a district headquarters.

Further, the contention that a longer time must elapse before the "reserve men" can answer urgent calls loses its force when it is realized that these reserve forces consist of one man at each station-house. And the argument that patrolmen should keep in close touch with their stations, urged against the removal to the proposed location, is quite without merit, in view of the fact that they keep in touch by reporting over the telephone or police signal wire to Police Headquarters.

Many cities of Richmond's size have only one central police station, and the adoption of that plan has seriously been considered here. As a matter of fact, the only persons who will suffer by the temporary transfer of the Second Police Station will be those policemen who will have greater distances to go to and from their homes.

Herr Heinz Pothoff suggests that Germany kill off a few hundred thousand prisoners of war. If the prisoners, why not the heads who brought about the conditions which have made prisoners? And if the killing is to be wholesale, Berlin is as good a place to begin as any city on the European map. Herr Pothoff himself might not object to furnishing a corpse.

Ex-President Taft's Tiff with Secretary of War

Ex-President Taft's tiff with Secretary of War Garrison is apt to set at rest the silly report that used to be started at every change of the moon that President Wilson was going to offer Mr. Taft a place on the United States Supreme Court Bench.

Admiral's Troubles

Admiral had his troubles. Like any modern dub, But never had to, when He stayed late at the club.

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SEEN ON THE SIDE

Cheer Up. Say, friend, why the melancholy? This is no time for repining; 'Tis the season to be jolly. For the Christmas stars are shining. Buck up, fight down, weak depression; Don't admit Fate treats you badly; Don't commit the indiscretion Of surveying life too sadly. There is joy all round about you. You will find, if you keep trying; But there's not a bit of doubt you Will lose out if you keep sighing. Buck up—can't the melancholy; Don't waste time in vain repining; 'Tis the season to be jolly. And the Christmas stars are shining.

State House Dialogue.

"You shouldn't doubt what he told you. He doesn't have to lie." "No, he doesn't have to, but he can warp the truth so that it will fit any situation that confronts him."

The New Scholar.

"Did the serpent tempt Eve with the apple?" asked the lady teacher of the boy who was present for the first time. "It says she wheedled it out of him, and now says she thinks he knows everything."

Guide Sees a Dawn of Peace.

The Guide of Capitol Square greeted New-comer gleefully. "Lookin' over wife's sock's last night, I discovered that she had sowed up all the holes in 'em. It was a hint to me that she knows Christmas is comin'." She don't propose to let 'em put in 'em will fail to stay put."

The President Says:

Do right to your fellows, and they may not appreciate it; do them right, and they will at least understand you are following the rules of the game. Incz Miholland Rotsevain admits that she proposed to her husband. She is not the first woman to find a man who could not say no to one of her sex.

Bonds and Bonds.

"Old Squeezem's word is as good as a bond." "Government or gold mine?"

The Court at the Club.

A venerable judge at the club caused his guests to look up when he said: "If a woman takes a man at his word when he tells her to 'Judge him honestly', the acquaintance is mighty apt to end right there."

To Seen on the Side: Why doesn't Richmond erect a statue to its first Mayor?

Broad Street at the intersection of Seventh Street would be a suitable site. Broad Street needs something to break the monotony of its width.

At the Theater.

Man on the end: "Why does that woman in the seat ahead persist in keeping her hat on?" "Oh," replied his next, "if she took it off nobody would see it."

Perfectly Obvious.

Bachelor—Did your wife accept you the first time you proposed? Benedek—Of course she did. Do you suppose I haven't sense enough to avoid a danger I have once escaped?

One Blessing.

"The suffragists say that when they get the vote they will make man know his place." "They will, too. The one cable thing is that the place they will make man know will prepare him perfectly for the place he may inhabit hereafter."

Skaggs Says:

The man who has money to burn stands a mighty good chance of getting scorched hereafter. "Yes," remarked Bromide, "time does fly." "Rot! How, then, does it leave footprints on the sand?" "Then they went and had something at the soda fountain."

Early Advantages.

Adam had his troubles. Not a few, perchance! But he never lost a button Off his Sunday pants. —Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

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crushers into flat cars waiting to receive their burdens. The granite there is said to be of a very good quality, and the supply would appear to be sufficient for many years. A whole mountain, not an inconsiderable hill, is waiting to be moved.

The Marshall Home boasts of a woman farmer as follows: "Mrs. W. E. Craig, of Sanford, Route 4, has the distinction of being the only farmer in Lee County who saved enough of crimson clover and vetch seed last year for her own use. Not only is this true, but Mrs. Craig is selling vetch seed. She is sowing her own cowpeas, and will have for next season several varieties of cowpeas."

The Charlotte Observer says: "There has been a good deal of newspaper prating about the giving away of all his wealth—except just enough to live on—by Andrew Carnegie. Some of the papers talked like Mr. Carnegie was destined to spend Christmas in the poorhouse, and no doubt some of the village benevolent societies have been discussing the matter of getting up a turkey and a basket of provisions to brighten the day for him, and it now turns out that he is hanging on to just a little—say about \$10,000,000. Mr. Carnegie may be considered a mighty poor man, but there are a number of newspaper men in North Carolina who might manage to eke out a bare existence if given the interest on his poverty."

Chats With Virginia Editors

That gubernatorial slate is getting full, but why make any fuss about it now, for we don't have to elect a Governor until next fall?—South Boston News. And another year on to that.

"Congress meets next week, and its reassembling furnishes Wall Street with at least one bear argument," says the Fredericksburg Star. The Street has long since discounted that bear argument.

The following paragraph the Halifax Record-Advertiser takes its last shot for the season at its deadly enemy: "The football season is over and the death number sixteen, one less than last year. And they say the game is not near so brutal as it used to be."

"The Richmond newspapers," says the Williamsburg Gazette, "made much ado when President George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio, was forced to climb the steps of a seventeen-story building in the act of the distinguished railroad man. He long since learned that there is room at the top." Exactly so.

"The description given of Hopewell in last Sunday's Times-Dispatch," says the Appomattox Times-Virginian, "made the capital city of the Commonwealth look like 30 cents, but there is nothing small about Richmond when it begins to toss bouquets." Certainly not, and do you mind that it never tosses them to the underserving?

The Suggestion of Auditor Moore.

The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, "that the treasurers omit the 5-per-cent penalty on taxes not paid by December 1 is coupled with the statement that under the law neither he nor the treasurers have a legal right to do it, in which case he had just as well not have made it, as some people may imagine that they have thirty days more without penalty."

The Blackstone Courier, noting the fact that "Richmond motorists have been able to force down the fine or speeding from \$100 to \$25," asks: "Who's looney now?" Not the autoists, surely—Richmond Times-Dispatch. Surely not.

But how about a community who "let a few automobilists run the whole town," as recently described by The Times-Dispatch—Blackstone Courier. The T.D.'s information about that community (Blackstone) was very reliable. It came from the Courier.

Queries and Answers

An Address. Please give me Mr. Carnegie's address. N. 2 East Ninety-first Street, New York City.

English. Is it proper to say of the best man at a wedding that he "stood for him," "him" meaning the groom? It is certainly a very poor use.

Verses Wanted. Will you publish or secure for me "The Female of the Species" and "When You Were a Tadpole and I Was a Fish." MISS J. C. C. If some reader will be good enough to send copy, we shall be glad to forward it to you.

Current Editorial Comment

Paris Bourse. Marked advances in the prices of Mexican securities on the Paris Bourse have followed the recognition of the Carranza government—a fact of particular interest because the French hold large amounts of Mexican issues. A French financial authority writes that the recognition of Carranza has been viewed "with keen satisfaction" in Paris, because of a fact strikingly confirmed by the conduct of the market. Events in Mexico, it seems right to add, have indicated since Carranza's recognition that the United States and the South American governments are not backing the wrong horse.—Springfield Republican.

Shop Early and Be Happy

As a general rule, it pays in money, in physical health and in mental peace to leave a restful afternoon of your last Christmas shopping expedition and the holiday period. If you have no consideration for anybody else, have some consideration for your own family. Many a Christmas has been spoiled by people who have done the nervous and physical strain of doing late what they should have done early, and who have lost the Christmas spirit through sheer weariness and worry. The best thing you can invest in for Christmas is good humor, and that is impossible to an exhausted body and mind.—Baltimore American.

Five Spirit Underlies It

One thing stands out clearly in Mr. Ford's proposal to take to Europe the nucleus of a possible neutral coalition conference, and that is the fine humanitarian spirit which underlies it. Just when Europe is reported as believing that all Americans, and particularly all our millionaires, are bent on the desire to coin money from the war, there comes along one plain, straightforward American from Detroit to put his shoulder to the wheel and to do what he can. When chancelleries and State departments lie back and are certain that nothing can be done toward peace until Europe is a still greater wreck, because of precedents and tradition and all the other obstacles of secret diplomacy, here is a man who is going upon an adventure which may have important exploratory results, and are certain that nothing can be done toward peace until Europe is a still greater wreck, because of precedents and tradition and all the other obstacles of secret diplomacy, here is a man who is going upon an adventure which may have important exploratory results, and are certain that nothing can be done toward peace until Europe is a still greater wreck, because of precedents and tradition and all the other obstacles of secret diplomacy, here is a man who is going upon an adventure which may have important exploratory results, and are certain that nothing can be done toward peace until Europe is a still greater wreck, because of precedents and tradition and all the 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