Richmond Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1917.

Universal Condemnation

PRESIDENT WILSON has scored a great victory for the right in assembling, against Germany's submarine warfare, the unanimous protest of all neutral nations. "The plain truth," as the New York Evening Post says, "is that the moral isolation of Germany, in this matter of lawless and inhumane warfare at sea, is complete. Whatever the action of neutrals may be, their feeling is unanimous." It is so. Not even the little countries whose frontiers Germany dominates are moved by their dangers to express sympathy with the German policy. Condemnation is universal; before the bar of civilization Germany has been tried and condemned; from no one of the judges comes a single word of dissent.

At any rate, this Wolfgang Berger, arrested as a German spy, could never deny his nationality and get away with it.

"Sound, Business Investment"

OVER on the Southside, where the refulgence of our city government is sometimes clouded, they have no doubt of the utility of the proposed civic survey. The South Richmond Suburban Association "gives its hearty indorsement" to efforts to obtain for Richmond "a scientific and exhaustive survey of its municipal affairs." The association believes, further, that the necessary expense of the survey is "warranted by the existing conditions as a sound, business investment for the city."

That sounds like mighty good sense to The Times-Dispatch, possibly for the reason that The Times-Dispatch so often has said the very same thing. Impartial and expert advice on the problems of municipal government, given by men who have investigated and compared many municipal governments, is what Richmond requires. To pay for such help would be "a sound, business investment" which would promise comfortable returns.

Since Mr. Pizzini startled the city with his exploits, check-flashing in Richmond has become one of the most popular indoor and outdoor sports.

New Traffic Laws Demanded

COUNCIL and its committees may expect to be deluged with objections to the new traffic ordinance. Richmond is a conservative old town, and many of its sturdy citizens are bitterly opposed to any progressive measures that tend to hamper their privileges, especially with reference to the free and unlimited use of the streets. When the first, and almost futile, traffic regulations were put into effect here some eight years ago, there were many indignant complaints of new-fangled notions.

Nevertheless, the new-fangled notions expedited the movement of traffic and prevented innumerable accidents. Now the city has outgrown the existing ordinance, and its safety demands the enactment of more new-fangled laws. The ordinance now before the committee has been drawn with utmost care and is the result of long deliberation and study. Radical as some of its clauses seem, experience has demonstrated the necessity for them. It is to be hoped Council will listen courteously to the old-fashioned, and then adopt the ordinance.

Progressives in the House of Representatives are submerged by regular Republicans on the Republican organization committee. This is in strict accord with precedent.

Gross Indignity to Gerard

DESPITE the apparently authoritative reports which came out of Berlin and Copenhagen, to the effect that Ambassador Gerard, his staff and other Americans were being subjected to some species of detention, The Times-Dispatch had refused to give full credence to this violation of international law. Now, however, the truth of the reports has been established. This gross indignity to the person of a diplomat, unless promptly acknowledged and atoned for, is in itself a cause of war.

Count von Bernstorff has been treated by this government since his passports were handed him with distinguished consideration. There would, of course, be as much reason for holding him as a "hostage" for Mr. Gerard's safe passage through lanes of German submarines as there is for holding Mr. Gerard to guarantee the German ambassador's immunity from arrest by allied warships. In fact, reason in the former case would be greater, for Germany can control her own naval forces, while we exercise no jurisdiction over the navies of Britain and France.

Even among savages ambassadorial immunity is recognized, as it has been for ages. Germany seems determined to change the diplomatic code of those whose methods of warfare it has distinguished by flattery's sincerest form.

One of the speakers at a New York patriotic meeting expressed his contempt for "plated patriotism" and "pewter jingoism." He expressed at the same time the sentiments of the American people.

Expert Advice for the State

IN appointing a trained expert to the post of public utilities engineer, the State Corporation Commission has taken a long step toward the ideal of governmental efficiency—regulation of public service agencies on scientific principles. In matters of taxation and the legal questions involved in preliminary incorporation, the commission may be deemed to be expert within itself. But the determination of such questions, important though they are, forms a comparatively small part of the commission's duty and opportunity.

In the regulation of public utilities, so that the interests of the public may best be served with due regard for private interests, lies the commission's broadest field. Heretofore, the body has been dependent on its own limited experience and occasional advice and testimony submitted to it for guidance in dealing with highly specialized subjects. With the employment of Judson C. Dickerman, a working scientist and practical expert, the commission's potential value to the State has been largely increased.

Strange, is it not, how allied opinion of President Wilson has changed in the last few days? Now in London and Paris "the amiable visionary" and "the believer in Utopia" has become "one of the greatest statesmen of the age." But, after all, this is nothing. Like miracles have been wrought right here in Richmond.

Liners, Arms and Convoys

THERE is one obvious reason why steamships of the American Line, now held in port at New York, should not be overanxious to adopt the State Department's advice and arm themselves against submarines. The reason is that such armament would give the liners practically no protection.

The St. Louis and the St. Paul, if they should mount guns and proceed from New York to the war zone, would carry with them the assurance of this government that their rights are not affected by Germany's announcement of submarine ruthlessness. The big vessels would have to assume they would not be attacked without warning, and the proximity of a U-boat would mean nothing—in theory, that is—to their commanders. After the submarine had discharged a torpedo or two, the liner's armament would mean nothing either.

It is clear, on the other hand, that the government should not make itself responsible for the lives of passengers and crews by directing sailings of American Line steamships. The State Department has announced that the St. Louis and the St. Paul have a right to continue their voyages to British ports, and that carries the assurance that if the vessels are injured by German submarines the United States will go to war. But the voyage itself is for the decision of the company and not of the government.

Whether the vessels should be sent out under convoy of American warships is another phase of the problem which presents its own difficulties. President Wilson is observing with scrupulous care every provision of international law. He is determined that war with Germany, if it is to come, shall not spring from a technicality, nor be occasioned by any act of this government. To send warships to convoy a merchant vessel carrying a pound of contraband would be an act of war, and whether the vessel carried contraband or not the consequence probably would be war. It may ultimately become necessary that this course be followed, but there should be no unconsidered, or ill-considered, action.

Shipowners cannot be compelled to thrust their vessels into danger. If the Atlantic Transport Company's officials think it wiser to keep the St. Louis and St. Paul in port than to send them to sea, it is not for the government to interfere with this decision. There is the danger of martyrdom—and martyrs are entitled to select their own role.

Those who clamor loudly for convoys should remember that Britain, though at war, has convoyed few of the thousands of ships under her registry which have crossed the seas. It is only of late and in the face of the new submarine menace that cruisers have been assigned to guard merchantmen leaving American for British ports. It is at least doubtful whether, against submarines, the convoy adds to the merchant ship's safety.

Under all the circumstances, a little patience is indicated. We are not going to permit Germany to destroy our ocean commerce, but even on that account we need not rush headlong into war. Let us, rather, survey the situation calmly and decide what is the best and wisest thing to do.

Southside citizens, demanding better streets, are up in arms. They say that a good part of the time they are up to their arms in mud.

Texas and Prohibition

THE lower house of the Texas Legislature last Friday defeated on its final passage the resolution submitting a prohibition amendment to the State Constitution to a vote of the people, the resolution lacking six votes of the required two-thirds. Several prohibition members voted against the resolution, because the prohibition majority, under the dictation of its leaders, refused to accept a "bone dry" amendment offered by the leader of the anti forces. The antis seized upon this action and turned the argument effectively against the proponents of the resolution by charging that they were not sincere in wanting to stop agitation by prohibiting the use, as well as the manufacture, sale and importation of all forms of malt and spirituous liquors, but rather desired continued agitation for political effect.

The proposition of the submission of an amendment was voted on in the Democratic primary last summer and carried by a majority of something like three thousand, but anti members of the Legislature generally hold to the doctrine that the vote of each should be controlled by the wishes of the voters of the district he represents, and not by the vote of the State's electorate as a whole, and in voting against the submission of the resolution were so guided. However, some of the prohibition members who were elected from districts that voted against submission refused to accept that doctrine, and supported the resolution. Had the resolution not failed in the House, its defeat in the Senate was practically assured.

The next tack that the prohibitionists will take to make the State dry will be to attempt the passage of a pending resolution calling a constitutional convention. In this also they stand to lose, due to the fear of the representatives of agricultural constituencies that the homestead exemption clause in the present Constitution would not be retained in the new.

Judging from the number of private homes in which the police have been tipped off whisky might be found, somebody has been abusing the hospitality extended him.

Connecticut having formed a "war cabinet," now is prepared to deal with any situation the general staff does not feel competent to handle.

It is becoming more apparent daily that England rules the waves and Germany waives the rules.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

The Cuddle-Lass.

(News Item.—Girls have taken the places of boys on some of the famous golf links in Scotland.)

When I swing my trusty driver
Sinking down a number fiver,
On a hole the profs have labeled "Bogey nine";
Comes a winsome smile a-racin'
Over Caddie's lovely face, 'n
Blymie! If the feeling isn't fine!

For she's a bonnie, bonnie lassie
As fetches me my brassie,
And her eyes they are as blue as they can be;
And her hair is like the heather,
The bonnie, golden heather,
That grows round Scotland's golf links by the sea.

BUT
When I dig the fractious iron
Into bunkersides, and siren
Voices mock me with "Hey, duffer, try a hoe!"
And the ball resists the jib licks
Of my mashies and my niblicks,
Blymie! But I miss her brother Joe.

For she's a bonnie, bonnie lassie
As won't stand language sassy,
And it hurts her when I rip proprieties;
And I catch mysel' a-wishin'
The kiltie was a-swishin'
Elsewhere, so I could say just what I pleas'!

J. I. J.

The Pessimist Says:

Kaiser Bill may have occasion to learn that there was a brick under that star-spangled hat.

Overstocked, Not Discouraged.

"Why was it," asked one confidence man of another, "that Farmer Deepfurrows declined to purchase the gold brick?"

"He said," responded the disappointed salesman, "that he had bought all the gold bricks for which he had storage room in his barn."

Making His Word Good.

She—Before we were married, you swore you would never come in late at night.

He—Well, I'm keeping my promise, too. You know very well I never come in before morning.

To-Day's Best Hand-Picked Joke.

Little Mildred came home from a day's visit in the home of little Harriet.

"She was awfully rude to me, mamma," said Mildred. "She talked cross to me, and she wouldn't let me play with her dolls, and she told me her father was richer than mine, and everything."

"Why didn't you come home?" asked the mother. "That's what I should have done if a playmate had treated me that way when I was a little girl."

"Maybe that's what you would have done, mamma," Mildred replied. "But times have changed since you were a little girl. When Harriet acted mean I just slapped her face and stayed."—Newark News.

Small Choice.

I never cared for William Jinks,
For of himself he always thinks.
But I like less young Percy Small,
Who never, never thinks at all.

Health Talks, by Dr. Wm. Brady

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Disturbance of Sweat Glands.

Some individuals sweat too easily (hyperidrosis), other sweat but little (hypoidrosis). A frequent cause of excessive perspiration is overactivity of the thyroid gland, be it in one suffering with recognized exophthalmic goiter or one whose ductless gland apparatus is functionally overstimulated from other causes. In persons who have insufficient thyroid gland function—partial myxedema or hypothyroidism, as doctors call it—there is usually little or no perspiration at any time, a dry, perhaps rough skin.

The sweat of some individuals in good health and cleanly as regards toilet is offensive in odor (bromidrosis). The sweat of any one has its peculiar odor, not necessarily disagreeable, but characteristic enough to identify the individual to the acute olfactory perception of a dog or horse.

Through nervous influences the functions of the tear glands may be disturbed with the functions of the sweat glands of the face, for instance. There may be overflow of tears upon the cheek under excitement, on one or both sides, with flushing or visible sweating of the skin on one or both sides. This is noted frequently in vagotonics—persons who have slow pulse, very small pupils, stomach disturbance of nervous origin, perhaps mucous colitis and obstinate spastic constipation (excessive muscle spasm of intestine). These vagotonics always have a high tolerance for starches and sweets.

Sweat glands are largest and most numerous in the armpits and on the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands. Hence excessive perspiration is particularly troublesome in these areas. There is no harm in controlling or stopping perspiration in such limited areas, if desired, provided that the application employed does not itself irritate the skin.

Colored sweat is due to different causes. Red sweat, which has been mistaken for bloody sweat, is generally due to a peculiar harmless germ, the bacillus prodigiosus. Sometimes, in illness, particularly infections, the sweat is greenish, due to the bacillus pyocyaneus. In jaundice the sweat is yellow. In many persons who eat too much meat or have intestinal stasis the sweat stains the clothing blue, due to a kind of indigo produced by bacterial activity in the bowel.

The treatment of colored perspiration is, of course, antiseptic applications. Bathing with a bichloride of mercury solution, or better perhaps, with a soap containing mercuric iodide. If digestive disorder is present it must be corrected by limitation of diet. For odorous sweating, nothing is better than a solution of formaldehyde, a teaspoonful of the standard liquid in a quart of water, to bathe the affected area once or twice a day.

Questions and Answers.

One Heart That Beats as Two.—What is the normal heart beat? Mine beats around seventy-eight when I am at rest, but gallops along nearly twice that rate when I take a two-mile walk. I am a stenographer and walk a good deal on account of my sedentary work. Was told walking is not good for me.

W. A. E.

Answer.—If your doctor told you not to walk, you had better obey his orders. No one else is competent to advise you. The normal average pulse rate is anywhere from sixty to eighty beats per minute, and increases from twenty to thirty on moderate exercise.

The Voice of the People

As an evidence of good faith, letters must give the name and address of the writer. Names will not be published if writer so requests. Make all communications short.

Women in Peace and War.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—That at a hint of danger to the country all women, whatever their separate convictions might be, should have instantly banded together for their country's good in a mighty argument for granting the vote to women. The principle of woman suffrage is but the organization of all women, on the theory that the contribution of womanhood to the government would be of immense value. If all women band together for the common good when the first danger of modern times confronts the country, why should they not band together to cast their vote for the best legislation that strives to deal with the great problems of the country in times of peace? Not only when the bugle call stirs the imagination and thrills the blood, but in "the piping times of peace," when humanity cries out in the throes of a crushing struggle, must they hear the message.

The women of the South filled every place of responsibility during the War Between the States, taking man's responsibility and man's place while the head of the house was absent; the women of England have shown themselves capable of not only self-sacrifice and arduous labor, but sound judgment in war. By what logical method can we deduce that these potentialities can only arise in times of stress? They are inherent, and may be trained and developed for the country at any time. Let every woman arise to the sense of her responsibilities in peace as well as war.

A VIRGINIA WOMAN.

Richmond, February 9.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch Information Bureau

Inquiries regarding almost any topic excepting on legal and medical subjects are answered free by The Times-Dispatch Information Bureau. Through our Washington branch we are fortunate in having access to the unparalleled resources of the various Federal government departments and the great Library of Congress, which furnish information of priceless value to the public. As all inquiries are answered directly by personal letter, irrespective of whether printed, a 2-cent stamp is required for return postage. Writer's name must be furnished (initials will not answer) and post-office address must be plainly given. Address The Times-Dispatch Information Bureau, Richmond, Va.

Wheat Prices.

J. E. B., Orange, Va.—In Cleveland's first administration the top price paid for wheat was $2, second administration, 91¾ cents.

Bunker Hill Monument.

C. J. Y., Manassas, Va.—Bunker Hill Monument is 221 feet 2 inches high, 30 feet square at the base and 15 feet 4 inches square where the pyramidal apex begins. 8,700 tons of granite were used in building it.

Billy Sunday's Assistants.

J. R. T., Richmond.—Mr. Sunday has fourteen or fifteen paid assistants, including his son, George, the housekeeper and the tabernacle postmaster, all of whom move from city to city with the evangelist, and the advance representatives who precede Mr. Sunday.

Charlotte and Appomattox Counties.

Miss F. W., Charlotte Courthouse, Va.—Charlotte County was named after Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, of England. Appomattox County doubtless takes its name from the river that rises within its borders. The river has the name of an Indian tribe that once lived in Charles City County.

James Whitcomb Riley and Mark Twain.

Mrs. F. E. G., Rapidan, Va.—James Whitcomb Riley was born at Greenfield, Ind., October 7, 1853. He worked first as a sign painter, and afterwards joined a company of strolling actors, for whom he used to remodel songs and write plays. His reputation rests in part on his brilliant gift of mimicry. Much of his verse is written in the so-called Hoosier dialect, but many of his most beautiful compositions are in pure English. The dialect poems dealing with scenes of simple life are deservingly famous for their homely humor and pathos, their originality, sincerity, kindliness and understanding of Indiana character. Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) was born in Florida, Mo., November 30, 1835. He was educated in public schools, served a short time as a pilot on a Mississippi boat. He afterwards took his pen name from the call used by the Mississippi pilots, "Mark Twain." In 1870 he married Olive Langdon, of Elmira, N. Y. He took up newspaper work, and alternated between that and mining until he became noted as a humorist.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 10, 1867.)

At last we have all-rail connection with Norfolk. The new schedule which goes in operation to-day does the thing. The train which leaves Richmond at 2:10 P. M. arrives at Petersburg at 3:20; leaves Petersburg at 5:05, and arrives at Norfolk at 9:30. The train which leaves Norfolk at 5 P. M. arrives at Petersburg at 9:20, leaves there for Richmond at 10:15, and arrives in Richmond at 11:20.

James Barron Hope, the gifted poet, has been invited by a number of members of the General Assembly to deliver in this city his lecture on "Colonial Virginia."

A gentleman who visited Mr. Davis at Fortress Monroe day before yesterday reports his health better than it has been for six months. Mr. Davis now has the freedom of the fortress grounds, and visitors are admitted freely. He declines discussing politics or his personal affairs, and bears his imprisonment with cheerful fortitude.

All accumulated Southern mails are being sent to Alexandria from Washington by tugs. These tugs sent down yesterday had hard times cutting through the ice.

The steamer Richmond was safely launched at Madison, Ind., yesterday. She is named for this city, and is the largest steamer ever put on the Western river waters. When finished, the Richmond will run between Louisville, Ky., and New Orleans.

Permanent organization of the National Tobacconists' Convention (manufacturers) was effected in Washington yesterday. F. A. Payne, of Ohio, was elected president; R. A. Mayo, of Richmond, first vice-president, with eight other vice-presidents representing the other States in the convention. Alexander McDonald, of Lynchburg, was elected secretary.

Loose-leaf tobacco receipts were much heavier yesterday than they have been since the "freeze out," and business was very active, prices higher and more animation than has been known for several weeks. Sixty-one large parcels were sold at Shockoe Warehouse. On the exchange, ninety-seven hogsheads and tierces were sold at good prices.

In the House of Representatives yesterday everything was side-tracked to make way for the further discussion of the Thad Stevens reconstruction bill. The House refused to call the previous question at Stevens behest, and then a half a dozen or more amendments and substitutes were offered. All of these were ordered printed, and the bill went over. The discussion was at all times quite bitter. Mr. Raymond, of New York, in a strong speech, opposed the whole Stevens reconstruction policy.

Jack McDowell, alleged horse thief, was lynched by hanging in Kansas City day before yesterday. He denied his guilt, and fought his captors to the very last.

Rev. C. C. Bitting, of South Carolina, one of the ablest divines in the South, will preach at both services at the Second Baptist Church to-morrow.

Current Editorial Comment

No Surprises in History

One hundred and thirty-seven years ago French soldiers were fighting on American soil under the leadership of Lafayette, alongside of American soldiers under the leadership of Washington against the English. A French fleet, in behalf of the Americans, blockaded Yorktown and kept out an English fleet which was seeking to bring off the army of Cornwallis. A few years later we had a small brush at sea with these same French. And then a few years later they renewed certain treaties with us and sold us Louisiana. In 1812 the English were again on our soil. In the Revolution, England brought over Hessians to fight us, but many big-hearted Germans came over from Prussia and helped arm and whip into shape the American army. It is not impossible before another year is over that American soldiers may be in Europe under American leaders and the American flag fighting side by side with the Frenchmen. To the student of history there are no surprises. Anything is probable.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Healing the Breach

The work of healing the breach in the Republican party goes on apace. It has arrived at a point where an amicable discussion is being carried on as to whether Senator Hiram Johnson knifed Mr. Hughes in the California campaign. The Republic has taken the view that Mr. Hughes or his campaign managers blundered so egregiously in California that they convinced all the independent vote in the State that Hughes was not their man, but it does not follow that Senator Johnson could not have exerted his power in California so effectively as to have pulled Hughes through. There is no evidence that he lay awake nights trying to think of things to save Hughes with. There is a widespread belief that he did not care much what became of Hughes, and that belief is not likely to die out. However, as we have just said, negotiations for a reconciliation continue, and there is even talk of making Senator Johnson the Republican candidate in 1920. If they do, Mr. Hughes's friends in New York, remembering all that happened in California in 1916, will go to the polls with smiles on their faces and possibly—just possibly—knives in their sleeves.—St. Louis Republic.

THE FLAG

BY FRANKLIN K. LANE, Secretary of the Interior.

This morning, as I passed into the land office, the flag dropped me a most cordial salutation, and from its rippling folds I heard it say: "Good morning, Mr. Flag Maker."

"I beg your pardon, Old Glory," I said. "You are mistaken. I am not the President of the United States, nor the Vice-President, nor a member of Congress, nor even a general in the army. I am only a government clerk."

"Well, you helped to clear that patent for the hopeful inventor in New York, or pushed the opening of that new ditch in Colorado, or made that mine in Illinois more safe, or brought relief to the old soldier in Wyoming. No matter whichever one of these beneficent individuals you may happen to be, I give you greeting, Mr. Flag Maker.

"Yesterday the Congress spoke a word which will open the door of Alaska, but a mother in Michigan worked from sunrise until far into the night to give her boy an education. She, too, is making the flag. Yesterday we made a new law to prevent financial panics; yesterday, no doubt, a school teacher in Ohio taught his first letters to a boy who will write a song that will give cheer to millions of our race. We are all making the flag."

"But," I said, impatiently, "these people were only working."

Then came a great shout about the flag.

"Let me tell you who I am.

"The work that we do is the making of the real flag.

"I am not the flag, not at all. I am but its shadow.

"I am whatever you make me, nothing more.

"I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.

"I live a changing life, a life of moods and passions, of heart-breaks and tired muscles.

"Sometimes I am strong with pride, when men do an honest work, fitting the rails together truly.

"Sometimes I droop, and then purpose has gone from me and then cynically I play the coward.

"Sometimes I am loud, garish and full of that ego that blasts judgment.

"But always I am all that you hope to be, and have the courage to try for.

"I am song and fear, struggle and panic, an ennobling hope.

"I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring.

"I am the Constitution and the courts, statutes and statute makers, soldier and broadnought, drayman and street-sweep, cook, counselor and clerk.

"I am the battle of yesterday and the mistake of to-morrow.

"I am the mystery of the men who do without knowing why.

"I am the clutch of an idea and the reasoned purpose of resolution.

"I am no more than what you believe me to be, and I am all that you believe I can be.

"I am what you make me, nothing more.

"I swing before your eyes as a bright dream of color, a symbol of yourself, a pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith because you have made them so out of your hearts, for you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making."

Books and Authors

Basil King, author of "The Side of the Angels," is spending a portion of the winter in Washington. He has just completed the reading of proofs for his new novel, which the Harpers will publish in the early spring.

G. P. Putnam's Sons have published "Christian Science and the Ordinary Man," by Walter S. Harris, which is a discussion of some of the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, in which the author, though unaffiliated with any Christian Science organization, affirms that he has secured "inner conviction and peace" through reflecting on these teachings.

Since the death of Admiral Dewey there has been much interest in his "Autobiography," published a few years ago by the Scribners. At the end of the book, Admiral Dewey says, characteristically, "A gratifying feature of the rank of Admiral of the navy, which Congress has given me, was that I was to remain in active service for life. While I lived there would be work to do." The autobiography is now issued in a new and cheaper edition.

With the publication of the second edition of "Father Payne" (the Putnams), announcement is made of its authorship, regarding which there has been so much speculation and not a few happy guesses. Those critics who boldly held to the view that the book was the work of Mr. Arthur Christopher Benson are vindicated. Mr. Benson admits the authorship and explains his reason for originally issuing the book without the author's name.

Charles P. Steinmetz, author of "America and the New Epoch," tells how when he was a little boy in Germany he and his grandmother loved to play "Going to America." So many of their neighbors had emigrated that there was a romantic appeal for him in the word America. The grandmother would sit on a red chest—now anchored in Mr. Steinmetz's Schenectady home—and he would sit astride on his chair, pretending that they were on the ship that was sailing westward.

"Ordeal by Fire," by Marcel Berger, a sergeant in the French army (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is a thrilling story of the stirring scenes of action at the front, in which the author, himself a participant, has breathed into it the spirit of fighting France. From the early days of August with their electrified atmosphere to the victory-crowned action at the Marne, the author gives an inspiring account of the glorious accomplishments of his hero and the girl who remained true. The author contributes not merely summary campaign sketches, but strong, warm, powerful, precise, and literary pictures.

"Antony Gray, Gadener," by Leslie Moore (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is the story of a remarkable will. Failure to comply with its conditions will mean the sacrifice of a fortune which the beneficiary needs for the fulfillment of his dream. Compliance with its terms exposes him to the hazard of a grave misunderstanding, that he is bound in honor to maintain, with the woman that figures in that dream, and for whose very sake he dare not refuse, though at the risk of her contempt, to subject himself to the seemingly eccentric conditions that the will imposes.

Robert Palfrey Utter, author of "Every-Day Words and Their Uses," has a word for those who defend their use of slang on the ground that it will ultimately come into good use. "It is true," he admits, "that slang represents a living element in language, a real principle of life and growth. But it does not follow that every slang word or phrase will at last become a part of the language. Many slang words remain slang for centuries; booze, for example, meaning liquor, or to drink liquor, was slang before Shakespeare's time just as it is to-day.

Ruth Sawyer, author of "This Way to Christmas," served her apprenticeship in telling stories viva voce. Once she had a reform club of eighty boys. "They were supposed," she says, "to be the losing proposition of that particular neighborhood settlement which claimed them. Story-telling was the last resort to keep them out of the pool rooms. To my great surprise I found my evenings popular, the club attending almost to a boy. For some time I was at a loss to discover the reason until the manual-training teacher explained. It seemed that the bully of the club had a 'soft streak' for stories; and having settled his approval of the story hours, he forthwith undertook to sponsor them. Taking his stand every club evening outside the popular pool room he swore he'd 'lick every bloomin' kid' who didn't show up at the club room."

SCATHING ARRAIGNMENT OF BRITISH PROPAGANDA

Representative Moore Accuses London of "Lying and Pernicious" Reports.

WASHINGTON, February 9.—Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, in a scathing speech in the House to-day, denounced British propaganda, which, he charged, is designed to embroil the United States in war. Representative Moore placed full blame upon London for reports that Ambassador Gerard is being held as a hostage in Berlin. He characterized these and other reports emanating from British sources as "lying and pernicious."

London has been crazy with delight since President Wilson announced a break with Germany," Representative Moore asserted. "We had trouble with England in 1776 and in 1812, and I am not quite ready to believe every lying and pernicious report that comes from London now as an inducement for us to go to war."

Representative Moore held aloft newspapers containing London stories concerning the recent submarine sinkings around the British Isles, and he charged that the early reports passed by the British censors were not supported by the facts as they were afterwards officially made known.

"Two college professors and 150 editors rushed to the bat and declared war on the face of the London reports," Mr. Moore shouted. "Some one is spreading these alarming reports to influence the United States into declaring war on Germany.

"Efforts have been made—desperate efforts—since the President was here Saturday, to prove that we must go to war, and the whole coasts seem to have been raked to find some 'overt act' to force the President to come in here now and ask us to declare war. We have had very little basis for the rumor, but we have had headlines galore, all with the view of stampeding the House and the country into an act of war. I do not want the people of this country deceived. I am satisfied that most of the people of the country want peace—peace with honor, of course."

PLANS FOR CELEBRATION AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

One Hundred Speakers Will Be Heard During Three-Day Exercises at Cumberland Gap.

[By Associated Press.]

CUMBERLAND GAP, TENN., February 9.—A three days' celebration to mark the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Lincoln Memorial University will begin here to-morrow. Nearly 100 speakers, including the presidents of many Southern universities, Governors of several States, and other distinguished public men are on the program for the celebration, which will consist almost entirely of speech-making, covering every phase of Lincoln's life and work.

Dr. George A. Hubbell, president of the university, will preside at the opening session to-morrow, when Governor Stanley, of Kentucky; Dr. A. E. Winship, of Boston, and President J. A. Morehead, of Roanoke College, Virginia, will speak. Presidents Barker, of the University of Kentucky; Adams, of Georgetown College, and Acheson, of the Pennsylvania College for Women, will be speakers at the afternoon session.

On Sunday afternoon the feature of the celebration will be a symposium of five-minute addresses, modeled after the brevity of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Joseph G. Cannon, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, will preside, and Congressmen from many States will be heard, or their addresses read, in praise of Lincoln.

At the Monday evening session, concluding the celebration, Jacob M. Dickinson, former Secretary of War, will preside, and deliver an address on "Lincoln and the New South."

Among the speakers on the program in addition to those mentioned are: United States Senators Owen, of Oklahoma; Fields, of Tennessee; Watson, of Indiana, and Norris, of Nebraska; Governors Cox, of Ohio; McCall, of Massachusetts; Rye, of Tennessee, and Stuart, of Virginia; General Coleman Du Pont, of Delaware; Leslie H. Shaw, Mayor William M. Thompson, of Chicago; Ambassador Koo, of China; S. S. McClure, of New York, and more than a score of congressmen.

INDIANA TO BECOME DRY

Governor Signs State-Wide Prohibition Bill, Which Is Effective on April 2, 1918.

[By Associated Press.]

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., February 9.—Governor Goodrich to-day signed the State-wide prohibition bill, making Indiana dry on and after April 2, 1918. The law prohibits the sale, manufacture, giving away or advertisement of all alcoholic liquors, except pure grain alcohol for chemical and medicinal purposes, and wine for sacramental uses.

The Vagaries of the Muse.

Sometimes the muse is active,
But oftner is she still;
Sometimes her fingers strike the lyre,
But only as she will.
The when and how she chooseth,
The theme and meter, too,
And that the thing I write is true,
Who knoweth more than you?
Sometimes the fountain gushes,
And then has steady flow;
Sometimes the music rushes,
Then softer is and slow.
Sometimes the fountain dryeth,
And every note is dead,
And not one rhythmic motion
Stirs either heart or head.
And then with unseen fingers
She pulls on all the strings,
Stirs deeply thought and feeling,
And sings, and sings, and sings.
—Reuben Crosby, Detroit Free Press.