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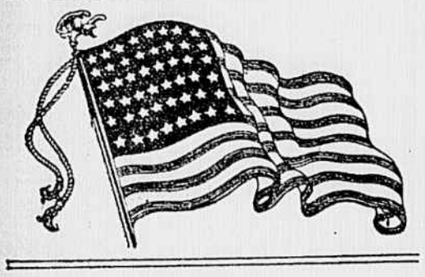
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1917.



Conference

ARRIVAL in this country of the British mission headed by Foreign Minister Balfour is joyful news. Now that the voyage has ended in safety, The Times-Dispatch is willing to confess that it had been getting a little worried—a little fearful that something unpleasant had happened to our distinguished guests. But that's all over now, and our friends and ourselves may get down to work. There is much to discuss and much to do. Time might be taken, though, to give Mr. Balfour an opportunity to address a joint session of the Congress of the United States. He has a message which Congress ought to hear from his own lips.

On paper, the volunteer system is fine; but the paper on which it is fine is not enlistment records.

A Worthy Fund

ELSEWHERE in this issue of The Times-Dispatch the American Army Relief Society appeals to the public for contributions to its fund to provide relief in cases of emergency for dependent widows and orphans of officers and enlisted men of the regular army of the United States. The officers of the society are chosen from among the best-known and most public-spirited men and women in the country.

Since the formation of the society in 1900, it has worked quietly without one appeal to the general public, and has expended annually many thousands of dollars for the relief of the dependents of American soldiers. The demands upon the society are now greatly enlarged, and it becomes a patriotic duty of American citizenship to contribute for its work as liberally as possible.

Those strikes in munition factories in Germany may be due to the fact that some of the Kaiser's agents thought they were in America.

Not State Troops Now

MARYLAND'S troops will be cordially received in Virginia, of course, in spite of the feeling of State pride that prompted some objection to their coming, on the ground that Virginia soldiers could guard Virginia's safety. But, more than that, they should be welcomed because their dispatch to Virginia signifies a wholesome determination to nationalize in every possible respect the organized militia of the States.

At all times, and particularly at this time, the country's military forces should be regarded as a national arm, not as separate, sectional institutions. Virginia's quota was enlisted in Virginia, and Maryland's in Maryland, but both form part of the American army and both are subject to perform duty anywhere in America or overseas.

Earnest women are advocating a uniform to be worn by women during the war as a measure of economy. We nominate any one of last spring's dresses.

Enlistment for Home Defense

FROM the Mayor's office comes the report that the appeal for enlistment in the Home Defense League has resulted in a gratifying number of volunteers for this important service. These volunteers, however, have applied for enrollment in undue proportion from the Second Police District, while the other two districts have not supplied their expected quotas. The Second District takes in the whole of Richmond west of Seventh Street and north of the river; the First District comprises the section east of Seventh Street and north of the river, and the Third District includes the whole territory south of the James.

It needs no alarmist to point out that there are far more danger points in the First and Third Police Districts than in the Second. Surely, it is only necessary to inform the men of those two districts that they are failing to measure up with the men of another section of the city.

Those two men who have just had 582 quarts of whisky turned over to them by order of court will find lots of friends waiting for them when they get home to North Carolina.

Singers and Musicianship

RICHARD HAGEMAN, one of the Metropolitan Opera conductors, recently aroused a storm of protest by asserting that comparatively few singers are also good musicians. Somewhat along the same line, but more specifically reduced, is a statement by Musical America's Mephisto that opera tenors are rarely anything except beautiful voices. This opinion is also certain to be disputed, but as a matter of fact both Mr. Hageman and Mephisto are right, and the reason is not hard to find.

Real singing voices, properly trained, are scarce. Fine voices are rare, and if their possessors have devoted the time and effort necessary to their schooling, they have had little time to study sheer music. Moreover, given a voice and voice training, the singer can find dozens of competent coaches who can drill him in special songs, oratorios or operas. In other words, the voice itself, coupled with its training, is enough of musical equipment to satisfy most singers, and their public.

And all this is especially true of tenors. Theirs is the rarest of all voices; wherefore it is always in demand. For every good tenor voice, there are scores of good baritones and basses. Therefore, for a low-voiced man to succeed he must be more than a good voice, while the tenor need only be a tenor. The whole thing narrows down to a question of supply and demand.

It would be a gracious act if Nicholas Romanoff were to write his cousin, William Hohenzollern, that he could always find room for him at Tsarskoe-Selo.

Country Sees a Light

SENTIMENT in favor of compulsory military service, at least in the present exigency, grows throughout the country. That it has the support of a large majority of the people is increasingly evident every day. That it will become the law of the land also is evident, for the Senate approves the proposition overwhelmingly, and recent polls of the House reveal that 200 members, only eighteen less than a majority, are committed to this measure of wisdom and justice.

There are 100 members who have declined to say how they will vote. That at least eighteen of these will be converted, if they have not already been converted, to the general staff plan admits of no doubt.

The swing in Congress is altogether toward acceptance of the views of military experts. A week ago a poll of the House showed only 138 votes for the selective draft system. There has been a gain of sixty-two votes in that period. The movement continues. Members of Congress are hearing from the folks "back home," and they hear also the voices of reason and experience.

The fact is that the propriety of compulsory service, operating equally on the whole population, has become fixed in the public mind. Its obvious fairness appeals to all. With the benefits which this adherence to what seems a new principle confers on the country go certain detriments, the most conspicuous of which is a weakening of the volunteer spirit. We have seen it here in Richmond. Men who are willing to do their full share in the cause of their country decline to do more than their share. Expecting the army bill to become a law and ready to answer the call when it comes, they refuse to anticipate that call.

To The Times-Dispatch there is tragedy in this, for the spirit of the Virginia of the sixties is not the spirit of the Virginia of to-day. It hurts us to observe any lessening of the old martial impulse, which made Virginia glorious on a hundred fields. None the less, the change has come, not in this State only, but throughout the country, and it must be reckoned with. It is plain to all that compulsory service is not only wise and just, but necessary. The citizen must be summoned to fight exactly as he is summoned to pay his taxes or serve on the jury. So summoned, he will respond, and that he will do his duty well everybody knows.

It is the nation's imperative obligation to organize at once a great army, adequately trained, properly officered, supplied with all the munitions and accessories of war, and ready for duty in any field. Every delay postpones the termination of the war and prolongs the period of sacrifice. Now that Germany has become our enemy, as well as the enemy of Britain, France, Russia and Italy, it is disgraceful for us to play less than our full part in that enemy's defeat. Calmly to contemplate the deaths of thousands in our cause is impossible to national self-respect.

Nor is this all. An army is as necessary to the safety of the United States as it is the honor of the United States. Even if the war should end in six months, which is wholly improbable, the great questions to be settled at the peace conference are vital to this people, and only a great military power can, or will, have a voice in their decision.

Bitter experience has taught us that to trust to voluntary enlistments, however great the emergency, is to lean on a broken reed.

Movie producers are going to confer about reducing the exorbitant salaries paid film favorites. Another blow at pure art.

Food Conservation

ONLY a great emergency would justify the drastic legislation which is proposed to control the food supplies of the country, but the emergency exists. The United States has not only its own needs to think of, but the needs of the nations with which it is joined in war on Germany. In order that the war may be waged with largest efficiency, we must produce enormously and at the same time practice every economy.

This involves, first of all, that "complete survey of the food supply of the nation," which is contemplated. It involves price-fixing, although, of course, this power should be exercised wisely, so as not to discourage production. It involves improved means of conservation and of distribution. In the last analysis, if the need should come, it involves an absolute food dictatorship.

Whether the more drastic of these powers shall ever be exercised depends on the self-restraint and good sense of the people. Food hoarding is the height of unwisdom, for it will encourage waste, further disarrange distribution and make strict government control more immediately necessary. In the meantime, however, a legislative start must be made.

The whole country will approve the Interstate Commerce Commission's tentative agreement to grant an increase in freight rates. Railroads should not be expected to be beneficial institutions; they are charged with public duties, and the public, through its governmental agencies, exercises control over them. But they must be allowed reasonable returns on their investment.

When a man's trunk containing thirty-six perfectly good pints is confiscated by the police, he begins to understand what frightfulness means.

Germany denies that any U-boat is in the western Atlantic. That denial increases the probability that several are on this side.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

An Annual Visitor.

Are you weary, do you suffer,
As the heat rays tumble down?
Do you feel like any duffer
Who has sought to paint the town?
Do you find that you are grieving
Over work you have to do?
Do you find yourself believing
You should loaf a month or two?

Do you lose the good intentions
Over which you loved to gloat?
Does each task of small dimensions
Hang around and get your goat?
Do you wake up in the morning
Hating like the deuce to rise?
Are you filled with bitter scorning
Of each useful enterprise?

Does a languor, pestilential,
Hover o'er you through the day?
Do you find a spur essential
Ere you're started on your way?
Are you sure the fates allot you
All life's hardest games to win?
Then the old spring fever's got you,
And, of course, you feel like sin!

The Pessimist Says:

Speaking of patriotism, now that you've got it, what are you going to do with it?

Not in His Line.

"Is Cholly Litebrane going to connect himself with the home-garden movement?"

"I think not. So far as I can learn, Cholly's agricultural activities are confined to raising Cain."

Small Difference, Anyhow.

Grubbs—How did Dauber manage to sell that cubist landscape of his to Mrs. Lotserox? I thought she had decided to confine her collection to portraits.

Stubbs—It was easy enough. Dauber simply renamed his painting "Paul Revere's Ride," and Mrs. Lotserox accepted it at once.

To-Day's Best Hand-Picked Joke.

Robert Henri, the New York artist, told a Whistler story at the Art Students' League.

"There was no pose about Whistler," he said. "Once in a Paris class he was conducting he did not like the red background to a study he had commenced, and so he covered it with brown.

"But the red showed through, so he scraped out the brown and put gray in its place.

Still the red showed. He took up his palette knife and began to scrape afresh, saying to a student who was reverently watching him:

"'I suppose you know what I'm trying for here?'

"'Oh, yes, sir!' exclaimed the student.

"'Well, it's more than I do,' said Whistler, and, seizing his hat, he made off."—Washington Star.

Here's How.

It's well enough to stand and hear
"Star-Spangled Banner" played,
But largely better to appear
Beneath that banner's shade
With those who've seen their duty clear
And who are not afraid.

Books and Authors

"Come Out of the Kitchen," the popular romance by Alice Duer Miller, the dramatization of which has been so successful on the New York stage, is equally popular in its book form. The Century Company has recently announced its sixth reprinting.

The very newest book, and one that we can recommend to the people of Richmond, is Frances Duncan's "The Joyous Art of Gardening" (Scribners)—as full of spring as it sounds—which not only tells you how to make things grow, but also how to beautify everything about the place—gates and fences and back yards—and, what is most indispensable in a garden book, there is an infinity of illustration.

Although we Americans were practically the first to fly, yet now we can learn a good deal from France, for they have gone ahead and developed aviation to an extent we in this country hardly realize. An idea of the use of aeroplanes in the war is given by Carroll Dana Winslow in his new book, "With the French Flying Corps." The book is illustrated with photographs taken by Mr. Winslow from the aeroplane.

The publishers have officially confirmed the rumor that there is in preparation a novel which gives a fearless picture of the workings of our State Department in time of crisis, as well as a presentation of life in an American embassy. This book will be entitled "The American Ambassador," and is by an American diplomatist who styles himself "Lawrence Byrne," a nom de plume employed, as his publishers suggest, "for obvious reasons." It is expected late in the spring.

The anonymous author of the recently published book, "Lose Weight and Be Well," has collected many stories of persons of abnormal weight. The worst of these, she says, "was the classic case of Daniel Lambert, which I came across in my reading. I had heard of a garment that was immensely too large for its wearer, that 'it hung on him like Daddy Lambert's waistcoat,' but I had never known before the full meaning of the saying. Daniel Lambert, I learned at this time, was born in 1770 and died in 1809, and weighed at the time of his death 739 pounds! He was an Englishman, and, unfortunately for himself, antedated Banting and the latter's physician, Dr. Harvey, who prescribed the diet which reduced Banting so satisfactorily. Lambert was said to be the heaviest man that ever lived."

A brief section out of the eventful and strenuous life of David, the great King of Israel, has been made the basis for a stirring novel of adventure and incident by Captain Charles Hudson, a retired army officer, who lives now in Southern California. He has taken that portion of David's life when he had to flee from the animosity of Saul and live as an exile and outlaw in mountains and desert with his followers. But David was essentially a man of action, and, wherever he set his foot, whether as shepherd, outlaw or king, things happened. The period of his exile was a busy time, and Captain Hudson has woven from the meager biblical account as breathless a novel as any modern scene could yield. It is rich in the local color of the time, and historically accurate in every way. The story is called "The Royal Outlaw," and will be published about the middle of May by E. P. Dutton & Co.

The valor and gallantry of the Canadian troops at Vimy Ridge and other recent battles lend additional interest to the story of the achievements of the Canadians in the western battle zone as told by Herbert Rae in "Maple Leaves in Flanders Fields," which E. P. Dutton & Co. have ready for publication. The account of the formation of the first Canadian contingent, its training, its journey to Europe, and how it took part in the action during the following months is all told in a spirited style, with plenty of anecdotes and stories of jests and fun, along with tales of hard work and fighting and wounds. The author, who writes under an assumed name, was a member of the force. The book should have an appeal for Virginians, since quite a number from this State are fighting with the Canadians on the western front.

The Voice of the People

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

First American Flag in the West.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Permit a historical correction. The first American flag raised west of the Mississippi was at St. Louis, Mo., May 11, 1804.

The Spanish governor of the town, ignorant that Louisiana had been ceded by Spain to France, which sold the province to the United States, had refused the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition admittance into St. Louis. The Americans had been forced to winter on the east bank of the Mississippi. On May 9, 1804, the Spanish flag was lowered. As an act of courtesy the French flag was run up for twenty-four hours. On May 11, 1804, the American flag was formally raised in sign of possession of the Territory of Louisiana.

MRS. C. H. ANDERSON.

Ivy Depot, Va., April 16.

Chickens Foes of Gardens.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Are you aware that one of the main reasons for a lack of interest in the universal garden movement among many is due to the depredations of the chickens owned by their neighbors, who, as a rule, exhibit a total disregard for the rights of others and allow their fowls to run at large? It is a waste of time and newspaper space to exploit and urge the extension of the garden movement when the curse of chicken-roving prevails as it does in certain sections of Richmond, especially in the West End. Many an unfenced vacant lot will not be utilized because of this, as the writer knows from experience. And, furthermore, even a fenced yard is not immune in this respect—and our front lawns—Heaven help us! for it does not seem that the city has done anything to protect us from this evil. Raleigh, N. C., has just passed a very drastic measure in this connection, imposing heavy fines whenever chickens are allowed off the premises of their owners, each day constituting a separate offense. Why cannot Richmond do the same? Was there ever a better time to suppress the "hard-boiled" citizen who thinks his birds should be allowed to roam as they please? One can fight hail and frost and attend to the occasional dog and cat, but it is wholly impossible to suppress a certain brand of chicken-roving owners without an ordinance with teeth to it. Let us have one just as soon as the authorities can get to it, or else it's "Good evening" to a large percentage of the garden movement and increased food production.

A SUFFERER.

Richmond, April 18.

In Behalf of the Negroes.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Just a line concerning a subject that seems to be developing some solicitude and much discussion (newspaper and otherwise) in this, a perilous, period, namely, "The Uprising or Revolt of Our Colored Citizens." Born and raised in the South, with a fairly good knowledge of the negro character, I desire to say in their defense that such a course, in my judgment, is far from probable. I might add, next to impossible.

Looking back to the war of the Confederacy, a period when even the question of their freedom was the chief issue, and remembering the fact that in nearly every home they were the wardens, so to speak, while their masters were absent engaged in war, such an apprehension seems unwarranted and, I might say, uncharitable. During this period, almost any slave—man or woman—would have stood at the gate and carved from head to foot any assailant of the master's home. I believe this is literally true. When you compare this relationship, I might say, with any history from the beginning of the world, there is nothing more beautiful, and we must not now allow ourselves for a moment to feel that this race of our citizens will ever raise their hands in such a manner against the people with whom they were raised from childhood. There are some bad negroes, there were some bad Indians, and I guess now and then we might run across a few bad members of almost any race, but, speaking for my community, and for other communities with which I am familiar, I desire to say that the colored race as a whole is far removed from a condition that would permit such a measure; in fact, in many respects they are to be commended for their efforts in life, and in a great crisis like this it will behoove us all to approach close to that beautiful language to be found in our Litany, "That it may please Thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet; we beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Many instances of crime have arisen with the colored race, some almost unmentionable, but I am sure this character belongs to a very limited number, and the stronger members need our counsel and "helping hand" to encourage them to classify themselves, so to speak, and to set their faces hard against the vicious element to which I refer. Looking back over the past fifty years, there is much in their situation which commands sympathy, and I know that the people of the South are their truest friends. Starting life, as it were, without education, and in most cases without a penny, their only asset was the heritage of character instilled by their former owners, and it has not yet waned, even though the first forty years of their freedom was to a large extent wasted in the delusion of politics, chiefly through the ingenuity of carpet-baggers and designing politicians.

At the close of the Civil War it would have been a most gracious thing had this great nation of ours started off each worthy colored family with some little outfit for life, perhaps a few acres of land, etc. I might also add here that the nation should have included in their pension legislation the soldiers of every State, for they went out to serve their respective States, and with a reunited nation all should have been treated alike. I very much believe but for the assassination of President Lincoln these two important subjects would have been provided for.

T. O. TROY.

Amherst, Va., April 15.

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.

Adjutant-General of Virginia.

Miss L. K., White Post, Va.—The name of the Adjutant-General of Virginia is General W. W. Sale, Richmond, Va.

Employment in Navy-Yards.

J. W. P., Hopewell, Va.—To obtain employment in navy-yards and arsenals, apply to the labor board of any arsenal in which you wish employment.

Box for Ton of Coal.

J. B. P., Richmond.—The Geological Survey states that one ton of chestnut coal occupies 40.43 cubic feet. A box 4x5x2 feet 1 inch would hold this amount of coal.

To Stop Squeaking in Shoes.

Miss M. L., Danville, Va.—Try a small quantity of vaseline or salad oil on the soles. If this does not remedy the trouble, take them to any good shoe dealer who may be able to get better results.

To Drive Ants Away.

Mrs. E. S., Richmond.—Those who have tried it say that oil of sassafras on pantry shelves will drive ants away. The method of using it is to moisten pieces of cloth with the oil and scatter about.

To Kill Moles.

R. A. P., Richmond.—Get a one-pound can carbon disulphide. Then take a small stick—a broom handle will do—and punch holes in the mole's runway. Pour an ounce or two of the liquid down into the hole and close it up. The fumes from the carbon travel along the mole's route, and as soon as they come in contact with the nest they kill. Have no fire around during the process.

Negro Troops in War Between the States.

R. C. B., Tabscott, Va.—Something like 178,975 negroes were employed in the War Between the States. The first negro regiment to be organized was the First South Carolina, May 9, 1862. The engagements in which they particularly distinguished themselves were those of Milliken's Bend and Nashville. The last Federal prisoners were released from the prison at Andersonville in April, 1865, at the close of the war.

Cost of Weapons of Warfare.

Miss A. P. B., Memphis, Tenn.—The approximate cost of a sixteen-inch gun, when mounted and ready for action, is $500,000. We have no twenty-inch guns. The approximate cost of the 800-ton submarines which the government is to build is $1,454,000 each. An aeroplane costs $20,000; dirigibles from $45,000 to $75,000. The total coast line of the United States, including bays, gulfs and sounds, is 22,609 miles. Russia has a greater coast line than the United States if the colonial possessions are included. England may be said to have a greater coast line than the United States.

Justices of U. S. Supreme Court.

E. DeJ., M. D., Ashland, Va.—The names of the justices of the United States Supreme Court and their addresses are as follows: Chief Justice—Edward D. White, 1717 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. Associate justices—Joseph McKenna, "The Connecticut," Washington, D. C.; Oliver W. Holmes, 1720 Eye Street, Washington, D. C.; William R. Day, 1301 Clifton Street, Washington, D. C.; John H. Clark, 1610 Monroe Street, Washington, D. C.; Willis Van Devanter, 1923 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D. C.; Mahlon Pitney, Morristown, N. J.; James C. McReynolds, "The Shoreham," Washington, D. C.; Louis Brandeis, 161 Devonshire Street, Boston, Mass.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Few people would regard the alligator as a friend of man after a casual glance at him, but there is a law in Louisiana which authorizes the different parishes of the State to enact such measures as they deem best to protect the alligator. The reason for this law is the fact that the alligator is regarded as an enemy of the muskrat, and the muskrat is an enemy of the rice planter, because of his habit of burrowing in the banks and dikes of the rice field and flooding the crop at the wrong time. Thus man and the alligator, who may be regarded as natural enemies between whom there exists little spontaneous cordiality, ally themselves against the muskrat.

This alligator protection is an instance of one angle of a great national agricultural problem—the wild animal problem. By taking possession of the continent, man has disturbed and destroyed the delicate balance of nature, and it is now his task to work out and set up a new balance that shall be favorable to the greatest possible food production. Many animals that seem at first to be the enemies of man are really his best friends, and when they are trapped out and killed as a result of a hasty and short-sighted policy, a new and far more destructive species multiplies out of all bounds, because the first species, its natural enemies, have been destroyed.

It is necessary that every bird and animal species in the United States should be carefully investigated, tried in a court of equity as it were, to determine whether it is on the whole injurious or beneficial to agriculture, before the human inhabitants of the country decide how that species shall be treated. This trial is technically called determining its economic status, and the court which tries each species to decide whether it shall live or die is the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture.

In the natural balance of animal life, each species of bird and insect and mammal has its natural enemies, not sufficiently numerous to kill it out completely, but strong enough to keep it in bounds. When man steps in and exterminates a species, he often lets loose upon himself and his crops the unchecked multitudes of another one that works ten times as much harm. There is a certain Southern State where a bounty has been placed upon hawks and owls, because of the damage they were supposed to do to poultry. In consequence of the bounty, the hawks and owls have been killed out, and as a result of the killing, the orchard industry of the State, which might be worth millions of dollars, has been practically ruined. The orchards are ruined by the field mice that girdle the trees, and field mice have increased enormously because the hawks and owls, their natural enemies, have been killed by man.

All Nature Is Balanced.

This sort of delicate balance runs all through nature, and it is part of the work of the Biological Survey to study each bird and animal exhaustively, weigh the harm it does against the good, and pronounce a verdict for or against, which shall be reflected in local or national protective legislation. This sort of work has already been carried out very extensively. Even such relatively unimportant creatures as the hummingbirds have had to stand an investigation, and scores of their tiny stomachs were examined to determine what they fed on. In this case, it is welcome to learn, the verdict was "Not guilty."

When a species of animal is plainly destructive and injurious to man, the survey takes up the work of exterminating it, or at least of bringing it within limits. The biggest job of this kind on hand is the campaign on predatory wild animals that is being waged in twelve of the big Western stock-raising States. These animals include such species as the gray wolves, the coyotes, the mountain lions, the bobcats and the bears; the annual damage they do to stock is estimated at $12,000,000. Even here, the question of the balance of nature enters to some extent, and the interests of farmers and cattlemen are not identical. The coyotes are the natural enemies of the jack rabbit, for instance, and where the survey has carried out an intensive campaign of coyote extermination to control the outbreak of rabies, the jack rabbits have increased to a point where they do serious damage to crops, and it is necessary to start a new war on the jack rabbits by means of poison. There is no question, however, that the predatory wild animals do vastly more harm than good; they form in fact one of the leading sources of loss to the Western stock grower.

Damage by Wolves and Lions.

There are some sections in the Southwest where it is not possible to raise horses because of the ravages of the mountain lions. Gray wolves do great damage to the cattle herds. In a glass case at the headquarters of the Biological Survey there is kept the skull of an old gray wolf who ate $3,000 worth of cattle before he was trapped. This wolf had only two toes on one forefoot, so it was possible to recognize his work by the tracks around each kill. There are doubtless numerous other wolves on the range whose meat bills run as high.

The Western States have been fighting the predatory animals without success for many years. Most of the work has been done on the bounty system, which offers a reward for the scalp of each wolf or coyote. In some States this system has been in operation for twenty-five years, and the relative losses to-day are greater than they were in the beginning. In the last year, the Biological Survey has started work on a new co-operative method which promises to solve the problem. The new system calls for the trapping and poisoning of wild animals by salaried hunters using the best methods, and doing away with the bounty system.

The great drawback to the bounty system is the fact that the trapper makes his living from the wild animals, and if he kills them out, he destroys his source of profit. Also, he wants to kill the greatest possible number of animals in the least possible time. So he works against the young and unsophisticated animals, who probably do not kill many cattle anyway, and leaves the old and wary cattle-killers alone, because it takes too much time and trouble to catch them. These old animals bring forth litters of young each year, and thus furnish the trapper with fresh sources of bounty season after season. As an official of the survey puts it, it is more like stock raising than animal killing.

Divided Into Survey Districts.

The survey has divided the twelve big Western stock-raising States into nine districts, each under the supervision of an inspector, and worked by salaried trappers, who draw no bounty money, and who are judged solely by the results they get. The catching of one wise old wolf may be a harder job and worth more to the cattle business than the trapping of a dozen young ones, and the inspector in charge knows it and gives credit accordingly. Wherever possible, the States are being induced to revoke their bounty laws and make an appropriation to co-operate with the survey instead. Three States are already working on this system, and others are expected to follow shortly. In Montana in the last five years $800,000 has been spent on the old system, and the losses are as big as ever. Dr. Fisher, who is in charge of the wild animal work for the survey, told the Montana stockmen that if the survey had that amount of money to spend in five years, they would guarantee to kill out all the wolves and most of the coyotes. It seems to be only a matter of time until the survey plan will be adopted all through the West, and it promises to solve the problem.

The larger predatory animals are only one side of the question of animal control. Prairie dogs and ground squirrels do hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to crops every year. The survey has worked out a system of poisoning them at a cost of 5 cents an acre. Methods of destroying such species as the gophers and the field mice and the land crabs have been developed. The survey is working toward that balance of nature which shall be the most favorable for the works of man; but one of the most effective methods, and the one that calls for nation-wide co-operation is the preservation of the species that prey on the species that do the damage.

Little Talks on Thrift

BY S. W. STRAUS, Pres. American Society for Thrift.

The women of America can wield a powerful patriotic influence in the present crisis. War and waste make all the more necessary the practice of thrift. The housewife largely controls the home budget and expenditures, and the women of the United States can save millions of dollars for the common good. We are wasting $700,000,000 a year in our kitchens alone.

In England and Germany not a foot of ground is going to waste. In Austria-Hungary and Italy, too, the conditions are much the same. Thrift comes as the stern necessity of war, and in this respect the women of the United States will play a more important part than will the men.

Our neighbor, Canada, has learned in the stress of war times ways of thrift, of utilizing and conserving every resource and of renouncing its little luxuries cheerfully, that will not be forgotten through generations of peace and prosperity.

Women throughout the Dominion are wearing their old gowns, so that the styles of 1914 are better form than the more recent fashions. They are learning how to cook and buy more economically. And this matter of cooking and buying is now coming to be a nation-wide concern.

A thrift campaign has been launched in Toronto and various thrift centers have been established in schools and churches throughout the city. Mrs. Caroline Burns is demonstrating economical cooking at ten of these centers.

At the opening of the first one, Mrs. Burns said: "Thrift and economy are not the penalty but the privilege of patriotism. Waste is now a crime. If a man does not succeed in business, he looks for the leaks. They come from undue extravagance, poor judgment and ignorance in buying. Bad buying is the root of extravagance, just as bad cooking leads to waste. The need for more business-like housekeeping and thrift is imperative, for the saving of our dollars now means the saving of our men's lives. To the women is falling the conservation of the nation's food supply and the seeing to it that money thus saved goes into the war loans."

Theodore Roosevelt recently sounded a national warning when he said: "Extravagance rots character; train youth away from it. On the other hand, the habit of saving money, while it stiffens the will, also brightens the energies. If you would be sure that you are beginning right, begin to save. . . . It is not often that a man can make opportunities for himself. But he can put himself in such a shape that when, or if the opportunities come, he is ready to take advantage of them."

RICHMOND NURSES CHOSEN

Miss Ruth Robertson Is Elected President of Graduate Association in Convention at Lynchburg.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 21.—The Graduate Nurses' Association of Virginia adjourned late yesterday after electing the following officers: President, Miss Ruth Robertson, Richmond; first vice-president, Miss Florence Bishop, Harrisonburg; second vice-president, Miss Mary Brightwell, Lynchburg; treasurer, Miss Rita App, Lynchburg; secretary, Miss Josephine McLeod, Richmond; board of directors, Miss Agnes Randolph and Miss Rose Van Vort, Richmond. The next convention will meet in Richmond or Norfolk, the time and place to be fixed by the directors.

MONTAGUE IN LYNCHBURG

Congressman Is Principal Speaker at Patriotic Meeting Which Indorses Conscription for Army.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 21.—Sixteen hundred people participated in a rousing patriotic meeting here last night, which was addressed by Congressman A. J. Montague, of Richmond. Congressman Glass wired regrets of his inability to be here. The high school chorus led in singing of patriotic songs.

The meeting was presided over by Mayor Jester, and State Senator Walter E. Addison introduced the speaker. Mention of conscription for the new army by Congressman Montague aroused the audience to great enthusiasm. A resolution presented by R. V. Blackford, pledging Lynchburg's support and commending President Wilson, was adopted.

O God, Our Help.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home;

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eetrnal home.

—Isaac Watts.