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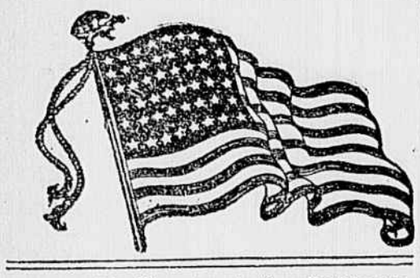
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1917.



The Bolsheviki regime, in the effort to suppress opposition to its traitorous designs, restored the death penalty for political and military offenses. It is barely possible that Lenine and Trotzky will be among the first to feel the weight of the penalty. The storm which soon or later will bring about their destruction is slowly, but all the more surely, gathering, unless all previous experience in revolutionary orgies is to count for nothing.

According to Major-General Hugh L. Scott, former chief of staff, who has just returned from a visit to the western battle front, the allied commanders there are favorably impressed with the military ability of General Pershing and the breadth and soundness of his preparations for making American arms effective in the war. His report as to the fitness and eagerness of the American troops already over there when they come to grips with the Germans is highly encouraging, coming from so capable and conservative an authority. He hasn't the least doubt that these troops will acquit themselves with credit equal to the best displayed by any nationality during the whole course of the war.

German diplomacy in its dealings with the Argentine government controlled its "facial muscles" well enough to forestall temporarily a break in relations with that country. In the meantime, Uncle Sam's Secret Service came into possession of additional German official confidential correspondence which, when subjected to X-ray analysis and presented to the Argentine authorities for their enlightenment regarding German methods of deception, disclosed such hideous designs as to produce a veritable shock to credulity hitherto impregnable to reasonable appeal. The effect has been to produce a complete change of attitude by Argentina, with growing assurance of a speedy declaration of war against Germany.

First outcries of real distress come from the soldiers with General Pershing's expeditionary forces in France. They are to have no turkey and no cranberry sauce for their Christmas dinner. Thus is added still another horror to the long list already piled up by the submarine. One of the Kaiser's undersea terrors attacked a United States ship loaded with cranberries and forced it to turn back. Two other ships loaded to the guards with the national bird will not arrive in time. Hence the cries of distress from the American battle front. Canned corned beef will be the piece de resistance on the Christmas menu, and the boys are mad enough to go right over the top and lick the Kaiser once and for all.

The naval building program, the largest ever entered upon by any nation, is proceeding with a degree of speed that is highly encouraging. In his brief annual report, Rear-Admiral Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, states that more than 800 vessels are under construction, from Dreadnoughts and battle cruisers to submarine chasers, and in the case of destroyers, vessels not expected for delivery until late in 1918 are to-day in actual service in European waters. Moreover, from now on, the most desirable type of vessels for present needs will be regularly and rapidly turned out and added to our already splendid fleet. When this war closes, the American navy will have grown to such proportions as to excite the admiration of the world—for it will then be dedicated to the noble mission of preventing future wars.

Overzealous supporters of the proposed Federal amendment for national prohibition should not confuse acceptance of the method of amending the Constitution with opposition to the unwisdom of the amendment as being an invasion of the principle of State rights, expressly reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. The States may at will abandon all of these reserved rights by delegating them to the United States in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, even to removing the inhibition that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religon, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." But the preservation of all of these rights was deemed of such fundamental importance by the founders of our government to the integrity of the Union and to the terms of the compact by which it was formed, that they were specifically excepted from the general grant of powers. The wisdom which prompted this safeguarding of the principle of State rights against invasion is upheld by those of their descendants who oppose the adoption of the amendment as a Trojan horse to prepare the way for the surrender of the whole citadel of reserved rights. Because three-fourths of the States have been given the power to do a thing—and that thing diametrically opposed to a principle the fathers deemed vital to the preservation of sound government—offers no valid argument for the exercise of that power.

Investigations Bring Forth Fruit

INVESTIGATIONS into the conduct of the war, inaugurated by Congress, may not add efficiency to the government or otherwise improve the state of affairs, but they are giving entertainment alike to the investigator and the spectator. As a matter of fact, that is about all a congressional inquiry ever amounts to, aside from the generous expenditure of "contingent funds" and the engagement of high-priced counsel. The various probing proceedings now in progress are running true to form. They are revealing no scandals and laying the foundation for no legislation, but they are providing plenty of pleasant one-day sensations. Also, they are giving Washington a season of thrilling rumors. There are infinite stories of shake-ups, upheavals and governmental reorganizations. None of them may be true, but all of them lend interest to the situation.

For example, the Crozier testimony before the Senate Military Affairs Committee, in which the blame for the delay in producing more machine guns for the American army was put upon Secretary Baker, was followed instantly by the report that the Secretary of War was to resign, and would be succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt. To lend zest to the yarn, it was added that Major-General Leonard Wood would be named as chief of staff.

On the heels of this came the further story that facts were about to be unearthed with respect to the navy which would force Secretary Daniels into retirement, and would end in the appointment of one of the rear-admirals now on the retired list as head of the naval establishment. This forecast did not proceed quite far enough to pick the particular officer to be so favored.

The controversy between Herbert Hoover, food administrator, and Claus Spreckels over the sugar shortage started the rumor that the administrator would not be able to stand the "gaff," but would be compelled to quit his job. In the same breath came the further intimation that the whole fuel administration was about to be turned inside out, a new head appointed and a complete set of new policies put into operation.

All these things happened with three days' hearings. They kept official Washington in a good deal of a ferment, but the excitement subsided very soon, just as it always does in such circumstances. There have been no resignations and probably will be none, but the investigators have the satisfaction of knowing that they have given Washington something to talk about.

Divided, They Fall

ANTIPROHIBITION interests in the country are severely blaming each other for the result of the vote in Congress upon the submission of a prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution. One element of the wets charges the other with treason, and the "traitors" answer with the countercharge of a deliberate abandonment of the cause.

There seems to be considerable substance to both charges. Since the passage of the dry war measure which put all distilled liquors out of business, the distillers and their immediate allies have had little or no interest in the future of the wet industry. Most of them have realized that the distilleries would never again be permitted to operate, and that the most the manufacturers of spirits could hope for was the opportunity to market the stocks on hand. About the same time the light wine and beer interests decided to divorce themselves forever from the distillers and to make their case, if possible, before the public upon an independent basis. Pursuing this policy, the brewers and wine growers undertook a nation-wide advertising campaign designed to show the justice of excepting light wines and beer from the operation of any national prohibition enactment.

With the wet forces split, one group of them lying down entirely and the other group assailing the first, it is easy to understand the extent to which they weakened themselves when they mobilized for the defeat of the Webb resolution submitting the constitutional amendment. Many of the true friends of the distillers either absented themselves from the House when the vote was cast or else threw up their hands and bodily surrendered to the enemy. Some of the supporters of the brewers' claims, seeing the inevitable, climbed aboard the water wagon at the last minute, with the general result that the dry advocates had a much wider margin of safety on the final vote than any of them had expected.

If the wets in the several States enter the campaign against the ratification of the amendment still far apart, they may expect as decisive a defeat as they experienced in Congress. If they reunite, pooling all their resources in a last stand, they may give the prohibitionists something to worry about.

A New York banker was given "absent treatment" for which a bill for $12,150 was rendered. When he attempted to make payment through the same method he was haled to court. Money, it seems, must be "present" to be of service.

A legislative program for the solution of the high-cost-of-living problem would prove an acceptable Christmas gift. It also might keep a large part of the nation from going hungry.

Count Czernin, Austrian Foreign Minister, complains that Wilson's war message is not clear to him. Its meaning will become more evident as the war proceeds.

It seems the Kaiser's "holy war" was not able to keep Jerusalem in the hands of the infidels.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

BY HENRY EDWARD WARNER

The Raucous Rimester.

I've a barrel of verse, of jingles and rimes,
Of sounding poems and ringing rot—
I've written of people and worlds and climes,
And there isn't a target I haven't shot;
I've turned my guns on the Great White Throne
And shot my arrow at lesser things—
I've tuned my lyre to the smile and groan,
To the plodding hoofs and the angel wings.

I've written reams on affairs of state
And other reams that were not just that—
I've roasted folk both wealthy and great
And I've hexametered the family cat!
I've roamed o'er leagues of the dreary waste
That lies 'twixt Man and his Higher Self—
I've catered to vulgar and fancy taste
And written for glory and rimed for pelf.

And men like Morgan go roaming far
With gold and silver in current coin
And dig where bones of dead rimesters are
And buy what others perchance purloin;
I've yet to hear of a millionaire man
Who'll give me a cent for my reams of stuff—
I can write as much as the next man can,
And be just as gentle, or just as rough!

The above is a kick, for I just have read
Where a thousand was paid for original script
Of a single stanza by one who's dead,
And whose soul has long to its respite slipped!
And I wish—oh! gec! how I wish that I
Might sell a barrel for a thousand yen!
But I reckon that first I'll have to die,
And perhaps somebody will buy it then!

Charcoal Eph's Daily Thought.

"De Good Book, he say him dat hath'll git mo'," said Charcoal Eph, ruminatively, "but dat ain' no good news to de man wid de seven-year itch! Try a chop, Mistah Jackson."

Jabs.

Shock 'em, and you'll draw a crowd.
Why argue religion with a fellow who has none?
Nearly all dispute is about nonessentials.
When baby cries, let him have whatever it is. Santa Claus is a fake to the giftless child.
Sympathy listens only to the voice of hope.

Right.

A rolling stone gathers no moss,
Yet why this row and cavil?
Who wants to be a mossback, huh?
There is some sport in travel.

Preference.

If frowns fit sages
And fools are jolly,
You take the wisdom—
I'll stick to folly.

Stung!

"Poor Jings!"

"What's happened to him?"

"Oh, he shot off a couple of French phrases from the back of the dictionary, and a fellow from Paris started a conversation in the tongue."

Getting Nervous.

I growl and kick
And I fume and fuss;
I bite my fingers and
Nearly cuss;
I fume all day
And I toss all night;
It's a long, long time
Till the black bass bite!

Granted.

"Before you are hanged," said the sheriff, "is there anything you want?"

"There is," said the doomed man. "I would like to have a new pair of suspenders."

So they sent him two different hangmen for the ones previously assigned.

Net Pikers.

"O Mary! Last night I dreamed we had the niftiest little runabout, and—"

"John Henry Smith, you go right back to sleep and dream a limousine, or get out and walk! There'll be no cheap dreaming in this family!"

Particular.

"This car, madame," said the auto salesman, "is a perfect piece of work. Listen how smoothly the engine runs! Semielliptic springs, automatic oil feed throughout, no grease cups to fill, magnetic gear shift, winter top, compensating—"

"Ah! yes," interrupted the person with the impertinent lorgnette, "but—er—haven't you something with a—er—heliotrope or lavender smell?"

Nursery Rime.

Little Maiden, Miss Afraiden,
What's the matter with you?
Why do you weep, my Little One?
What did the naughty boy do?
He dropped a spider down your neck!
O mercy! what a shame!
But don't you cry, for every boy
Must have his little game!

Health Talks, by Dr. Wm. Brady

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Chronic Conjunctivitis.

The conjunctiva, in a physician's long-winded vocabulary, is the mucous membrane which lines the eyelids and covers the eyeball. The suffix itis, as every aspiring humorist knows, is medicalese for inflammation. So a doctor calls chronic sore eyes, chronic inflammation of the eyes, conjunctivitis, and that makes his advice worth $5 more than it would be worth if he were to call it "granulated eyelids," as plain folks do. Still, a doctor may have another and a better reason for not calling chronic conjunctivitis granular lids, for in this condition there are no granulations such as characterize a much more serious eye disease which prevails widely in the South. This latter disease, commonly known as "red sore eyes," is trachoma, very contagious, and when neglected it is likely to lead to blindness.

In chronic conjunctivitis there is little increase of secretion, perhaps enough to cause the eyes to be sticky and show some dried secretion at the inner angle of the lids mornings. There is but slight irritation or discomfort, such as itching, feeling of sand in the eyes, sometimes a little sensitiveness to light, and a tendency for the eyes to tire easily, especially at night.

Factors which cause this low-grade chronic inflammation of the eyes are excessive confinement in foul air (still, warm air), exposure to smoke and dust, late hours and insufficient sleep; in women, the careless application of rice powder, the granules of which enter the eye and keep up irritation there. Alcoholism, eyestrain and not rarely some obstructive lesion within the nose may be accountable for chronic conjunctivitis.

Besides the removal of the cause, mildly stimulating eye-drops or eye-washes are required.

One-half grain of silver nitrate dissolved in one ounce of distilled or rain water freshly boiled, and kept in an amber or black vial to protect it from light, is a good stimulating solution. A drop or two may be dropped in each eye daily for a week or ten days. It smarts considerably for a time.

A somewhat milder stimulating eye water is made by dissolving ten grains of boric acid and one grain of zinc sulphate in two ounces of freshly boiled distilled or rain water. Several drops of this may be dropped in each eye once or twice a day. Any solution applied to the eye should be comfortably warm.

It is unwise to make constant or long-continued applications of such remedies to the eyes. Better to interrupt all treatment a week now and then, or change to different remedies.

Questions and Answers.

Marasmus.—Please explain the nature of the disease known as marasmus. My baby is nineteen months old, and weighs only eight pounds. She weighed eleven pounds when she was eight months old. We have tried every kind of food any one has recommended—he was raised on the bottle—but nothing agrees with him. Two doctors have told us he can't be helped. They say it is marasmus. MRS. A. D.

Answer.—There is no such disease. Marasmus is merely a Greek term meaning wasting. Wasting is present in various diseases in infancy. A wet nurse might be helpful if one is obtainable. Some large hospitals can supply breast milk for such babies. Goat's milk might prove more assimilable than cow's milk. If it is possible to take the baby to a mild climate where she can be kept in the open air all the time, that may change matters. At that age, perhaps some thoroughly steam-cooked fresh vegetable pulp (strained through a sieve) should be given every day. Also the yolk of egg, cooked.

Books and Authors

Major Ian Hay Beith, author of "The First Hundred Thousand" and "All in It" (Houghton Mifflin Co.), believes that one of the most encouraging factors in the position of the allies is that the morale of the allied armies is stronger than that of the enemy; the British and French know now that they have the upper hand. Major Beith sums it up when he says: "In the beginning of 1915 we were fighting for existence; in the beginning of 1916 we were fighting for time; now, in 1917, we are fighting for one thing only—victory." This explains why the advantage of morale has gone from the German trench over into the allied trench.

Chief among the few English writers and public men who saw the war coming during the ten years or so before it broke out was J. Ellis Barker, who, ever since 1900, when he began his career as a publicist, had warned his country of the danger of a war with Germany and urged diplomatic, military and economic preparation for it. In his new book, "Great Problems of British Statesmanship," ready for publication by E. P. Dutton & Co., Mr. Barker studies the questions that will come up for solution in the day when peace dawns. It is a book of facts rather than of arguments, and states and discusses from all sides the many problems that will have to be considered rather than attempts to offer solutions.

"The Church and the Man" is the title of a new book by Donald Hankey, the author of "A Student in Arms." The volume is issued in the series in which Henry Churchill King's "It's All in the Day's Work" and William DeWitt Hyde's "Are You Human" and "The Best Man I Know" are included. The object of the little book is, as the author says in his opening sentences, "to try to help find out how we can make the church a better, a more efficient, a more vital, a more healthy body." "An Average Man's Beliefs," "The Troubles of an Average Layman," "The Gospel and the Church," "Methods and Weapons," "Revelations and Common Sense," "The Church and Human Relations" and "Missions" are taken up in successive chapters. There is also an introduction by C. H. S. Mathews, in which Mr. Hankey's life is briefly reviewed.

Edward Lucas White, whose "El Supremo," although it was published almost a year and a half ago, is still selling steadily and at an increasing rate, has written a new novel, which E. P. Dutton & Co. will publish early in the new year. It will be called "The Unwilling Vestal," and will deal with life in ancient Rome. It is said to paint the times of the Caesars with as much fidelity and vividness as "El Supremo" does those of Paraguay under the dictator, Dr. Francia, and to tell a story equally stirring and complicated in its plot and incident. As a teacher of Latin for many years in a school in Baltimore, Mr. White has made such a thorough study of Roman life that the reader will find his portrayal of it full of those illuminating details that make a novel seem like the report of a real experience.

Current Editorial Comment

Why Russia Is Condemned

The inexperience of the Russian people in systematic self-government on a large scale is fully recognized here. It is not for their ignorances that they are condemned. Errors and excesses, if the trend were toward right and stability, might be overlooked, but when they all lead straight to anarchy as a mere prelude to autocracy, by which they notoriously are inspired, the case is different. Russia's revolution has fallen into the hands of traitors. Their perfidy to Russia is monstrous. Their betrayal of the allies of Russia is unexampled. They are false even to themselves. Assuming that they speak for the nation, the Russia that submits to them is indeed a Judas. The stigma will attach to every part of that country which submits to or supports a rule imposed by an enemy through agents corrupted and forsworn.—New York World.

The Risks In This War

Here is something encouraging for fathers and mothers who have sons in the army. There is in the Province of Quebec, Canada, a military hospital commission which, fortunately, has been keeping an account of the manner in which Canadian troops have fared on European battle fields. We have heard so much about the high percentage of casualties among the Canadian troops that it has come to be believed pretty generally by the people of this country that American boys who go to fight in France are likely to have a very poor chance to come home alive or free from injuries that will disable them for life. Basing its computations upon the experiences of Canadian soldiers in the war, the military hospital commission furnishes these statistics: The boy who goes to the front has twenty-nine chances to come home, as against one that he will be killed. He has ninety-eight chances to recover from a wound, against two that he will die because of wounds received in battle. There is one chance in 500 that he will lose an arm or a leg. It is explained also that in this war only one man dies from disease, as against from ten to fifteen who fell victims of various diseases in other wars. This estimate is proportional. But 10 per cent of the Canadian soldiers disabled on the battle fields are rendered unfit physically to engage in their former occupations. There ought to be cause for general encouragement in these figures.—Dayton (Ohio) News.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 24, 1867.)

ALEX. H. STEPHENS, Statesman, 1867.

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, late Vice-President of the Confederate States of America, spent Saturday in Augusta, and will go from that city direct to New York, where he will, by invitation of prominent citizens, deliver an address on the true condition of affairs in the South—political, social, financial and commercial. He has also been invited to deliver the same or a similar address in Philadelphia. No man in the South is better able to furnish the North with the true conditions of the South than Mr. Stephens, and no man in the South can better command the attention of the thinking people of the North. His trip to Northern cities at this time will do much good.

The Dispatch acknowledges the receipt from Davies Sons, photographers, of a photograph, "The First Meeting of President Davis and General Robert E. Lee Since the War." The photograph was taken at the residence of Judge Robert Ould, November 26, the day General Lee called on Mr. Davis, and when the two distinguished gentlemen spent a full morning together.

Saturday was the anniversary of the "Dedication of the Temple," and it was spent in sacred festivity by the Hebrew population of this city. The festival is known as Hanuka, and commemorates the preservation of the national existence of the Jews from the most galling and inhuman oppression. The festivities will be kept up for eight days.

Richmond has advanced one more step on the road to modern improvement, so called. She has a waiter-girl concert saloon.

A called meeting of the Council was held Saturday to consider compliance with an order from General Schofield that an old and long-forgotten ordinance of 1852 vintage be revived by the appointment of an inspector of lumber for the city. This is to create another paying office for somebody. The matter was laid over until the regular meeting.

The report of R. M. Manly, superintendent of freedmen's schools, shows that there are now in Virginia 12,225 colored children under tuition, 2,500 of whom are in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Davis are on board the steamer Cuba, bound from Baltimore to New Orleans. When Mr. Davis went aboard the steamer in Baltimore on Friday evening he was cheered by a large crowd on the wharf. He and Mrs. Davis had hoped to sail earlier, so as to be at their home in Mississippi on Christmas Day, but were detained in Canada.

The Supreme Court of New York has set aside the verdict of the jury in the case of Gardner against Tyler that was tried at Staten Island, and ordered a new trial. This decision is in favor of Mrs. John Tyler, wife of the late ex-President.

The project of starting a new morning paper in New York, to be called the Republic, under the editorial charge of Charles A. Dana, has been abandoned. The parties concerned in it have purchased the Sun, which will be edited after January 1 by Mr. Dana.

BUYING AND USE

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, December 23.—The Federal Bureau of Standards is testing the quality of materials purchased by the largest buyer in the world—the United States government. With the government buying in $100,000,000 lots, the responsibility of the bureau as a testing laboratory is heavy. The experts of the bureau have a few tips on the buying and use of materials to lay before the average citizen. They are worth hearkening to, for they come from the highest scientific skill turned on the problem of how to get the most out of your money.

One of the principal materials of modern warfare is rubber, that unique vegetable mystery of a thousand uses, practically the only thing on earth that will stretch and return to shape. It is also one of the principal materials of peace, and almost every family could effect a considerable annual economy by the wise purchasing and care of rubber goods.

Care of Rubber Hose.

The suburban dweller, for example, usually buys a garden hose two or three times as often as is really necessary. The average life of a hose in actual practice is seldom more than one season, while with reasonable care in the purchase and use, the rubber experts say that a hose should last three or four years. A fairly good quality of hose should be bought in the first place, and it should not be cut and scarred, for such superficial cuts quickly deepen and spread. Hence it should not be dragged over gravel and cinders, but lifted and carried. Above all, it should not be left lying in the sun. Heat is the deadly enemy of all rubber goods.

At a temperature of 140 degrees, rubber articles that would ordinarily last for ten years are destroyed in three weeks. A pile of rubber bands left lying on an office desk where the sun strikes them will be worthless in three months, while if kept in a cool, dark drawer they would last six years. This fact suggests at once the proper care of rubber articles of clothing. Rubber overshoes are only worn a few times in a year, and they would last practically indefinitely if they were carefully used. Left lying behind a stove in school or a radiator in the office quickly takes the life out of them. A rubber coat hung near a fireplace, or tossed over a radiator to dry, is started on the road to disintegration.

One peculiar quality of rubber that is worth remembering is the fact that oil quickly ruins it. The rubber absorbs the oil, and the resulting compound is soft and without tensile strength. This quality of rubber is of particular importance to the owner of an automobile, for oil on the tires and inner tubes will rot them.

Don't Dry With Heat.

Like overshoes, ordinary leather shoes should never be dried with heat, say the experts at the bureau. They should know, for the testing of the millions of pairs of army and navy shoes is in their hands. Leather has a curious quality of rotting inside, if it is wet and then dried near a radiator or stove. This may result in no apparent change in the outer thicknesses, and yet the sole within may be practically spoiled.

Proper use and care of shoes all over the United States would result in a great national saving. Over $500,000,000 a year is the sum of the American boot and shoe bill. To make shoes last as long as possible, the bureau recommends the alternate wearing of at least two pairs. Two pairs of shoes worn alternately are said to outwear three pairs, each of which is worn continuously until worn out. The use of shoe trees is recommended. The pair not in use should be left in a moderately cool place, where there is a free circulation of air.

The proper polishing of shoes is a necessary measure of economy, as without dressing the leather becomes brittle and dry. Any commercial shoe polish is designed as a preservative as well as a decorative agent. One of the best preservatives for shoes to be worn in the country, on rough hikes, hunting trips and similar occasions, is treatment with neat's-foot or castor oil, but this results in catching so much dust that it is not desirable for dress shoes. The time-hallowed practice of the western prospector—before Mr. Hoover's day—of pouring the morning bacon grease hot over his boots, belongs in this class.

The easiest way to form a judgment of how a piece of cloth will wear is to test its strength. This is done by seizing it with the thumbs and first fingers of each hand, with the thumbs tip to tip. Then bring the knuckles of the thumbs together. This will force the tips of the thumbs through the cloth, and by how easily this is done, the strength of the cloth can be determined. If it is too heavy to test in this way, pull out a few threads and break them singly.

To distinguish between animal and vegetable fibers—which include such pairs as wool and cotton, silk and artificial silk—it is only necessary to burn a small portion of the material. The odor of burning hair indicates that wool or silk is present, but does not prove that there is no cotton admixture. To settle this point, if the matter is sufficiently important, make a solution of five parts of lye in 100 parts of water. Bring this to a boil, and it will dissolve all wool or silk in a few minutes, leaving the cotton fibers, whose amount can be observed. A handy way to distinguish real silk from artificial silk is to hold a thread of the material in the mouth for a moment. Artificial silk quickly loses its strength when wet, and can be broken much more easily wet than dry, while real silk cannot.

Information Bureau.

Inquiries regarding almost any topic, excepting on legal and medical subjects, are answered free. As all inquiries are answered directly by personal letter a self-addressed, stamped envelope is required. Address The Times-Dispatch Information Bureau, Richmond, Va.

Enemy Alien.

J. C. W., Petersburg.—Take up the property question with the alien property custodian, Washington, D. C.

The Second Draft.

F. P. Y., Christiansburg.—The date for the second draft has not been fixed. It will begin soon after the names of the remainder of the men registered have been classified.

Carrying Capacity of Ships.

R. M. L., Hopewell.—The number of passengers a ship carries depends on its size and according to its deadweight tonnage. For instance, the Vaterland, the largest vessel afloat at the present time, accommodated 4,050 passengers besides its crew when it was making regular voyages from Hamburg to New York. As a transport the Vaterland can be made to carry between 12,000 and 15,000 soldiers.

Feet in Nautical Mile.

B. F. E., Chase City.—The British Admiralty knot or nautical mile is 6,080 feet and the statute knot is 6,082.66 feet and is generally considered the standard. The number of feet in a statute knot is arrived at as follows: The circumference of the earth is divided into 360 degrees, each degree containing 60 knots, or (360x60) 21,600 knots to the circumference; 21,600 divided into 131,355,456, the number of feet in the earth's circumference, gives 6,082.66 feet, the length of the statute knot.

About Questionnaire.

L. M. H., Richmond.—Yes, all exemptions and discharges of registered men have been revoked, and these will receive a questionnaire within the next week; that is, a list of questions asked by the government, which must be answered within seven days to supply full information in regard to their physical, personal and industrial condition. From this information the government will decide on the men that are to be conscripted in accordance with the classification recently published.

Insurance of Enlisted Soldier.

The government insurance on an enlisted soldier in the army would be paid to his beneficiary relative in case of his death, and if this should occur between now and February 12, 1918, it would be paid in installments of $25 a month for a period of twenty years. After that date, whatever amount of insurance carried would be paid in monthly installments of $5.75 for each $1,000 of insurance. Soldiers, married or unmarried, are not forced to insure; but, in order to take care of those who may die or be disabled before they apply, the government gives insurance of a total value of $4,300, which remains in force until February 12 next, and is paid out in installments as indicated above in case of death. The government is not giving out the date of sailings of ships carrying mail for the expeditionary forces in France. Mail addressed to soldiers in France should give the name, division, company and organization to which the soldier belongs, in addition to "American Expeditionary Force."

Jewish Calendar for 1918.

Mrs. W. C. B., Newport News.—The Jewish calendar for 1918 follows:

Rosh-Chodesh (Sh'vat), January 14.

Rosh-Chodesh (Adar), February 13. Fast of Esther (Adar 13), February 25. Purim (Adar 14-15), February 26-27.

Rosh-Chodesh (Nissan), March 14. First day of Passover (Nissan 15), March 28.

Rosh-Chodesh (Iyar), April 13. Lag B'Omer (Iyar 18), April 30.

Rosh-Chodesh (Sivan), May 12. First day of Pentecost (Sivan 6), May 17.

Rosh-Chodesh (Tammuz), June 12. Fast of Tammuz (Tammuz 17), June 28.

Rosh-Chodesh (Av), July 11. Fast of Av (Av 9), July 19.

Rosh-Chodesh (Ellul), August 10.

First day of New Year (Tishri), September 7. Fast of Gedaliah (Tishri 3), September 9. Yom Kippur (Tishri 10), September 16. First day of Tabernacle (Tishri 15), September 21. Hoshannah-Rabbah (Tishri 21), September 27. Sh-mini Atseres (Tishri 22), September 28. Simchas-Torah (Tishri 23), September 29.

Rosh-Chodesh (Cheshvan), October 7.

Rosh-Chodesh (Kislev), November 5. First day of Chanukah (Kislev 25), November 29.

Rosh-Chodesh (Tebet), December 4. Fast of Tebet (Tebet 10), December 13.

Voice of the People

Letters must give the name and address of the writer. Name will not be published if writer so requests.

Tobacco May Come Next.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—You do a good work in attacking prohibition as a national measure. Are there not more who will stand against the undermining of our constitutional liberties? Why not an attack on tobacco as started in some States? From the zealous efforts of some in this liquor crusade it would seem that a "rapprochement" of state and church were again at hand, which Heaven forbid. Fight against usurpation of rights, and your cause will be a just one. HUNTER BARKSDALE.

Richmond, Va., December 22, 1917.

King William Not Greedy.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—You are in error as to the greediness of the King William people, as stated in yours of December 19, in reference to the Richmond and Rappahannock Railway. The facts are, and can be substantiated, that the president of the road at that time made one trip over the route through King William, and was given over 60 per cent of the right of way. Contracts were signed and delivered, and I suppose are still in the possession of the railroad authorities. As far as the people on the other side of the Mattaponi are concerned, I venture to say they would be just as liberal if it was demonstrated that there was any chance of the road being extended through to the Northern Neck.

T. C. COMMINS.

Rumford, Va., December 20, 1917.

Salaries of Teachers.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I beg to indorse very heartily the movement for an increase in salary of our public school teachers, for the following reasons:

1. There are very few public benefactors adequately paid, especially those in charge of public instruction.

2. The worth of woman has never been properly appreciated, and her work has always been cheapened. Where men and women are associated together in a common service, the salary is usually regulated according to the estimated value of the woman rather than the more adequate remuneration belonging to the man.

3. Everything is very much higher than in former years, while money is more plentiful than ever before known. The teacher must have a better salary or there is no hope for future standards. I think every fair minded citizen will agree at once that the teachers ought to receive an immediate increase in salary in keeping with the advanced cost of living, as well as their real worth. JOHN J. WICKER.

Richmond, Va., December 20, 1917.

Mother Love.

[Written for The Times-Dispatch.]

What is it, my brothers, I fain would ask you,
That's as fair as the lily, as pure as the dew;
As sweet as a kiss from a virgin's pure lips,
As sweet as the nector the honey bee sips,
As bright as a jewel, as constant and true
As the stars o'er head in the heavenly blue;
Dearer to the heart of a man or a maid
Than anything else the Creator has made,
As bright as the sunset, yes, ever and anon,
Brighter by far than the day's glorious dawn;
Something so beautiful, wondrous and grand
Always and ever our heart it commands,
As deep as the ocean, as broad as the plain
It's given you freely again and again;
More rare than rubies or pearls from the sea,
It's worth a king's ransom yet's given you free,
"Like a fast-flying meteor," like an onrushing stream,
It grips you and haunts you like a young lover's dream,
Like the glorious June-time, like the scent of a rose
Spreads sunshine and gladness wherever it goes?

What is it, my brothers, again I ask you,
That's as fair as the lily, as pure as the dew,
As sweet as an angel in heaven above,
Perhaps you have guessed it—a dear mother's love.

A. J. CONDON,
Private Company C, First Provisional Recruit Battalion, Camp Lee, Va.