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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

Col. Goethals is meeting with very poor success as a rival of Admiral Mayo in sending hurry-up orders to Washington.

Secretary Bryan says he has been fighting all his life except when he was a colonel in the army, which perhaps explains his idea of what an army and navy ought to be.

The way things are going at Sing Sing, all the crooks in the country will be trying to break in. A Pittsburgh physician has just sent \$1,000 worth of radium to the prison physician to be used in the treatment of convicts suffering from rheumatism.

The House has adopted the annual amendment to the legislative bill cutting down the traveling expenses of members, thus guaranteeing the country its two laughs for the session—one now and one when the expenses are put back to the old figure.

The exploit of the British submarine B-11 and the calculating daring of her officers in diving under five rows of mines, entering the Dardanelles and blowing up a Turkish warship, takes the breath away and puts the late Mr. Jules Verne's Nautilus into the obsolete class.

A wireless dispatch from Berlin tells of the condemnation and execution by his own comrades of a French soldier who cut off the ears of a German sentry whom he had shot. The day following the finding of the body, the dispatch reads, "an officer of the French infantry appeared before the German position under a flag of truce and expressed to the German commanding officer the abhorrence of his regiment at the action of the culprit, who, he said, already had been condemned and shot."

It is reported that the House Naval Committee, at the suggestion of Representative Hobson, will summon Col. Roosevelt as a witness in connection with its consideration of the country's defenses. Capt. Hobson's choice is an excellent one, and the committee cannot afford to reject it.

The trouble on the Mexican border appears easy of solution to the average man. If Mexicans, standing on Mexican soil, do no violence to international law when they fire into United States territory and kill Americans, the rule must also work the other way, unless it is a poor one indeed.

New York's police commissioner, in an appeal to the Young Men's Christian Association to cooperate with the police in preventing young men from adopting careers of crime, said: "Most of the criminals are boys and young men less than twenty-five years of age. We will fall behind in the fight against crime unless we can get hold of the wayward boy. The band leader was his hero. Just now it is pretty hard for a boy to find a band leader, for we have a large number, about 200, in jail and the rest have run to cover."

Walter Johnson uses a great many words to explain why he left the Nationals for the Federal League, when he could just as well have done it with two. Johnson left because he was offered more money, and no thinking person will blame him. Every fan, much as he loves the sport, must realize by this time that baseball is as much a commercial enterprise as a brewery.

Proof of Our Neutrality.

For the first time since the war began, editors of European newspapers are finding room in their columns for the discussion of peace, only as something vague and remote, it is true; but at least it is being mentioned as an eventuality. It seems obvious that it was President Wilson's reference in his address to Congress to the time when peace shall come and the part the United States is to take in bringing it about that has turned European thought to the subject.

In Germany comment is made that the United States can have no part in the restoration of peace because of the widespread anti-German sentiment in this country. And, finally, London cables the editorial view of the Globe that the United States is in no position to assume judicial functions with regard to the war.

It is very clear that the United States is still in a position superior to that of any other power to render the greatest of service in the restoration of peace when the hour arrives.

Do it now! This is old advice, but it is as applicable today as it was a couple of decades ago. The reign of the Spugs was but a temporary one. Christmas is the time when efficiency in giving can well be forgotten and the art of making glad be cultivated.

Owners of property in the Union Station Plaza extension territory are to be congratulated upon the progress being made by the new awards commission, which yesterday announced the values it has placed on twenty-four parcels of land in square 722.

Secretary McAdoo's recommendation that the limitations under which the war tax measure is to expire December 31, 1915, be removed and the act amended so as to provide that it shall remain in force until the end of the conflict in Europe, is particularly significant when considered in connection with estimates of appropriations calling for an expenditure of \$1,000,775,134.

Fourteen Christmas Opportunities to lift unfortunate but deserving families from the depths of wretchedness and despair are again offered to the people of Washington by the Associated Charities. That they will quickly be taken advantage of by those in the fortunate position of being able to give is certain.

Humanity and War.

Looking back on the history of war, one circumstance is noticeable—the leaders are rarely sacrificed. Many of those who spent a large part of their lives in fighting came through unscathed. It might seem as if they received some special protection. So they did. It came from their own concern for themselves and from the concern in their behalf of their associates.

If a list were to be compiled of the lies of literature, it would include many references to war. It has been the shameful office of literature, in spite of its pictures of war's horrors, to sustain the popular conceptions, largely false, of war's glory.

A good deal has been said of late about princes and commoners, poor and rich, fighting side by side in the ranks. It must often make those people smile who know of the direct and the indirect graft that goes on in an army.

Disappointing as the European radicals have been, reports that have lately been coming show that they were not all false to their ideals. Rather than go out and kill their comrades, many of them killed themselves.

The stones of atrocities alleged to have been committed by both sides show that beneath the veneer of civilization many men are savages at heart. Stir up their bitter feelings, inflame them with the mob spirit, and they revert to the barbarism that is like a kind of madness.

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The administration evidently has not given up the hope that it can induce Congress to sanction its scheme for a government-owned steamer line to South America. It still yearns to buy the intrepid German liners, and seems to be engaged in trying to prepare the ground for planting the seed for such a transaction.

Unimportant If True

A lie crushed to earth often rises again. In Mexico the course of true patriotism never runs smooth. It must be admitted that the Germans have bang up artillery. The Spugs may not be damned, but they are getting faint praise. Gossip generally means taking two and two and making three.

How an Alleged War Prediction Originated. At the beginning of the civil war, a report was widely circulated that the Secretary of State in Lincoln's Cabinet, William H. Seward, had made light of the prospect of war and had declared that if there were any outbreak it would not last more than thirty days.

There is absolutely no truth in that report, he declared. "My father never said anything of the sort at any time or any where. He was aware that the remark had been attributed to him, but he never took the pains to deny it. He never saw the article in any newspaper, and he believed that it was impossible for a denial to catch up with an inaccurate statement."

There was, however, an incident upon which this report was based. My father was on his way to Washington to take part in the session of the National Conference on the first Monday of December, 1903. It chanced the night of his arrival at New York that the New England Society was holding its annual banquet at one of the large hotels.

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OPHELIA'S SLATE. MARINE CORPS. Capt. M. B. Fisher, to First Brigade, Marine Barracks, Philadelphia. Capt. M. B. Fisher, to First Brigade, Marine Barracks, Philadelphia. Capt. M. B. Fisher, to First Brigade, Marine Barracks, Philadelphia.

Doings of Society

Boxes for the annual Charity Ball have been taken by Mrs. Admiral Brownson, Mr. John R. McLean, Mrs. Thomas Ewing, Mrs. J. A. Johnston, Mrs. Thomas Walsh, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. Joseph Lecker, and Mrs. Hill.

The Vice President and Mrs. Marshall will spend Christmas in Arizona with Mrs. Marshall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Kimsley. They will leave Saturday and return after the last of January.

Mrs. Charles G. Mathews and her nephew, Delos A. Hlodgett, jr., will leave for Jacksonville, Fla., today, from where they will go by motor to Mrs. Mathews's home in Daytona, Fla.

Mrs. James B. Forgan, of Chicago, who is at the New Willard, entertained a dinner party in the Presidential suite of the hotel last evening. His guests were Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, president of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. E. P. Swinney, Mr. W. P. G. Harding, Mr. W. S. Rowe, Mr. Howard Ardley, Mr. J. G. W. Seligman, Mr. C. J. Jeffrey, Mr. D. G. Wing, Mr. John Shelton Williams, Mr. A. C. Miller, Mr. Willis, Mr. Elliot, and Mr. Lindley.

Mrs. F. W. Perkins has arrived from Paris to pass the winter in the United States. Mrs. Perkins is temporarily at the New Willard, having placed her young daughter in a Washington boarding school.

Mrs. Henry A. Kirby and Miss Kirby, of Providence, R. I., who passed last winter in Washington, have returned for the present season, and re-established themselves at the New Willard.

Mrs. Louise Hertle, of Chicago and Gunston Hall, Va., is passing several days at the Willard. Mrs. Hertle has a sister, Mrs. George D. Dyer, who is in Washington to assist at the brief ceremony at the White House yesterday afternoon when the Ambassador from the Argentine was received by the President.

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