IN THE REALM OF RELIGION

WHAT CHURCH PEOPLE ARE SAYING AND DOING

Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon, of the Southern Methodist Fellowship, has made a notable statement about the reunion of American Methodism. He says: "This result is very much nearer realization than it ever has been. The General Conference of our church at Oklahoma City two years ago unanimously approved the measure. The Methodist Protestant Church is on record in its favor. The Methodist Episcopal Church at its General Conference next year will act on the matter. If it fails, the blame will rest on the Northern church. There is no difference in faith between the three Methodist churches. The church was bisected by mutual agreement in 1844 through a disagreement on slavery. The Methodist Protestant Church was organized by seceders who object to the lack of lay representation in the General Conference. Since that time both the Northern and Southern churches have enacted this reform, and the Methodist Protestants feel that there remains no barrier between the churches." Bishop Mouzon, then on his way to Brazil, spent several days in Washington in May, and upon his return will be attached to the Baltimore conference, in which Washington is included.

Rev. Charles Stelzle, long the head of the Labor Temple in New York, has been for several years an arbitrator between the New York newspapers and their union labor. Though Stelzle came up from the ranks of labor, he has not shown preference for either side, and it chances that most of his decisions have gone to the papers instead of to the men. A recent trouble in the office of the New York American was decided in favor of the union.

J. B. Duke has made a gift of $35,000 to North Carolina Methodism and pledges this amount annually for an indefinite period. Of this amount $15,000 is to be used in church extension work, $10,000 for domestic missions, and $10,000 for superannuated preachers.

New buildings have recently been opened by the Young Men's Christian Association at the following places, costing the amounts subjoined: Coatesville, Pa., $155,000; Laurel, Miss., $100,000; Roanoke, Va., $200,000.

Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Del., opens a rest room twice a week on market days, especially intended for farmers and truck raisers. Women of the church act as attendants.

The city council of Petersburg, Va., has decided to give the Salvation Army corps of that place $50 per month for a year. The field secretary reports: "Almost every city in Virginia where we have a corps now subsidizes our work."

The use of tents for summer services in large cities is becoming increasingly popular. New York has made summer work famous in the past years, but never in the thirty-six years of the work has the attendance been as good as it is this summer at the Union Tent. Evangel. Philadelphia is following up the Billy Sunday meetings with the "best ever" summer tent campaign. The Presbyterians have been aggressive in the movement, holding services in half a dozen congested districts, and having audiences in their tent of from 600 to 800 every evening. The Baptists, too, are holding meetings in three different places. They report that a large part of the attendance is from the non-churchgoing population. The unconventionality of the whole thing attracts, and men go in their shirt sleeves and collarless.

The Presbyterians have made good progress among the Italians. On a recent Sunday, one of their Italian ministers addressed 300 of his fellow-countrymen, holding the meeting in a vacant lot. Three Italian churches have been organized as the result of the open-air and tent work. The tent work and other work in parks, playgrounds and similar places is carried on out in West Philadelphia, and the suburbs. Squads of Billy Sunday's converts are volunteering for the work. Automobiles are enlisted to carry the speakers. Well-equipped choirs and good orchestras have been trained. Altogether this summer evangelistic work is one of the wonders of the hot term when so many uptown churches are closed for vacations.

Do the churches adapt themselves to this summer? asks the editor of the Congregationalist, and continues:

This question forces itself upon us with increasing persistence from year to year as the pressure of interests competing with the old-time observance of the Lord's Day and the churchgoing habit becomes more intense. The ebb tide in the life of the churches reaches its lowest mark in August, and while we have no railing accusation to bring, and while we recognize the rightful requirements of the vacation season, we fear that the tendency throughout this country is toward greater sluggishness. This impression is confirmed by reports of the unexampled inactivity of the churches in Great Britain this summer. There the war may constitute a sufficient excuse, but it certainly does not palliate any undue relaxation of zeal here in America.

Speaking broadly the churches have much to learn concerning their use of the Christian opportunities of the summer. Even where the major portion of the congregation is away for weeks, it is not right to overlook duties and opportunities that may still exist.

Among the English preachers who have recently been to the firing line in Belgium on errands of Christian sympathy are Dr. G. Campbell Morgan and Rev. R. J. Campbell. They have visited the men in the trenches and taken helpful part in the services conducted by the Y. M. C. A. That organization, by the way, seems to have found itself during this war. The way in which it is following up and serving the need of the English and Scotch soldiers is being warmly praised. Possibly what the Y. M. C. A. did for our soldiers at the time of the Spanish War may have suggested methods to our brethren across the Atlantic. Mr. Campbell, on his return to England, spoke with appreciation of the amount of real Christianity he found among the English soldiers on duty in France.

Something of the nature of the Anti-Saloon League has been formed by the institution of a Temperance Council of the Christian Churches of England and Wales. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army; Cardinal Bourne and Principal Selbie are its board of presidents, and a Wesleyan, a Catholic and an Angelican are its honorary secretaries. Its object is to secure adequate legislative treatment of the temperance question.

So good an impression has Christian education made in India that the unbelieving Hindus are imitating its methods. High caste Hindus have seen those of low castes and the despised outcasts, educated at the mission schools, surpassing them in the civil service examinations and obtaining coveted government positions which they could not reach. Now they have started a purely Hindu university patterned after the Christian colleges, says the American Lutheran Survey.

Pope Benedict is said to have forbidden to Roman Catholics in all the belligerent countries prayer for victory. They may pray for the coming of peace, but not for the triumph of their national arms. If the world were in a mood to listen to the Pope, this rumored edict might put an end, so far as his spiritual subjects are concerned, to the apparent scandal of Christians praying against each other. The reconciliation of that apparent contradiction is in the underlying condition of all prayer that God's will may be done. The alleged order limiting prayer will certainly be very hard on wives and fathers and mothers, who can hardly help bringing before their Heavenly Father the great end of patriotism and devotion for which their husbands and sons are waging war. Prayer for victory may cease in the churches; it will hardly cease in the homes and hearts of the peoples. It seems like a contest of the head of the Roman Church against human nature—a contest in which human nature usually wins at least a momentary victory.

Bishop Isaiah B. Scott, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, sailed August 14 on the French Line S. S. Rochambeau. He expects to land at Bordeaux and after a week or two in France will sail for Monrovia, Liberia. Bishop Scott came to America about two months ago on business connected with African missions at the request of the Board of Foreign Missions.

A correspondent of the Congregationalist writes of the Billy Sunday of Japan.

They call him the Billy Sunday of Japan, but his name is Leimatsu Kimura. Just now his big tent, fronted and flanked by various banners and streamers, is pitched near the Japanese Houses of Parliament in Tokio. He is conducting meetings there which are a part of an evagelistic campaign under way in various parts of Japan. At 16, turned out of the house of his father, a wine seller, he earned his living as a newsboy. Converted at that time, he made his way to America and found Dwight L. Moody preaching in Southern California. Finding the building crowded, he told the big policeman at the door, "I've come 5,000 miles to hear Mr. Moody, and you must let me in." The bluecoat did. Mr. Moody let him into the school at Chicago, though he had only 35 cents in his pocket when he applied. After two years of study at Mr. Moody's school, he went back to Japan and took a broken-down church with thirty-five members and he ministered so effectually that he left it with 350. He resigned to take up general evangelistic work. In April, 1914, he came to America to meet Billy Sunday and study his work. He spent some time at the latter's meetings in Denver and Des Moines. At Honolulu he held an evangelistic campaign among the Japanese and it is estimated that 1,000 converts were made.

Kimura is about 40 years old, stockily built, with clear-cut, rather handsome features. He has an impassioned voice and crouches, jumps and gesticulates almost as frantically as his American prototype. He uses a blackboard, and when his voice fails from overwork, picks up a megaphone. He is talking to immense crowds, and has engagements ahead for a year and a half. One brother, Seishiro Iwamura is studying for the ministry at Hartford Theological Seminary. His other brother, and his father and mother, have been converted to Christianity.

By royal decree his majesty the King of Italy has decorated Dr. B. M. Tipple, president of the Methodist Collegio in Rome, Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy. This is a high honor, seldom conferred on a foreigner, and never given except for conspicuous service to Italy.

The decoration consists of a white Greek cross—the White Cross of Savoy—set in gold. In the center on one side is a fac-simile of the famous Iron Crown of Lombardy. This celebrated crown is now preserved in the cathedral at Monza. For many centuries it was the royal crown of the Lombards, and with it the German emperors were crowned kings of Italy from the thirteenth century onward. It was used at the coronation of Charles V in 1530, of Napoleon at Milan in 1805, of Ferdinand I in 1838. It is formed of a broad band of gold studded with precious stones. The name "Iron Crown" was given it because around the inner side of it is a thin strip of iron, said to be a nail from the true cross, and brought from Palestine by the Empress Helena.

On the other side in the center is the eagle of the House of Savoy, on its head the crown of Italy and on its breast the White Cross.

The Board of Missions of the Episcopal Church reports that it has received $312,000 of the needed $400,000 for its emergency fund, which is being raised by gifts of "one day's income," in addition to regular gifts for mission work. The object of the fund is to wipe out a seven years' deficit and prevent a further one on the current year.

The largest gift was received a few days ago, when the board got a check for $25,100 from "two friends." There have been forty-one gifts ranging from $5,000 to $1,000, while the total number of gifts is 8,127. Thousands are, of course, represented in the parish offerings.

Bishop Tuttle, the presiding bishop of the church, has addressed a letter to Episcopalians, which says, in part:

"I am an old missionary bishop of twenty years' experience in the Rocky Mountains. The Board of Missions and Missionary Bishops, twenty of them in the amazingly expanding work under the flag and nine of them abroad, as in the wonderful awakening nations of the Orient, are in the thick of the same sort of work that I tried to do. Under them are 2,700 missionary workers. And month by month these must have bread and butter. Hundreds of chapels, schools and hospitals must be maintained. Do you know that last year our missionary hospitals helped nearly 500,000 people? To do all this we must have near a million and a half dollars each year."

"Gary is a modern miracle," W. C. O'Donnell, jr., editor of Educational Foundations, says. "Strong hands have taken hold of the religious education problem and have brought it nearer to a solution than it has ever been since the secular order prevailed. There is beautiful concord at Gary between Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. Under school auspices great meetings are held on Sunday afternoons, not as substitutes for the denominational church services, but as general gatherings of inspirational value to all denominations, meetings that prove there is common ground for all who truly seek religious culture.

"The clergy visit the schools systematically, according to a plan which makes it possible for them to speak to all the children in all the buildings in turn. In addition to this the churches may have the attention of the children of all grades for two hours every day, thus making possible a system of daily religious instruction under denominational control without interfering with the routine work of the schools. The plan has features similar to those long in vogue in European countries.

"As an argument against possible antagonisms of sects, the example of Morganza, Pa., may be cited, where Protestants and Catholics are working in perfect harmony for religious instruction in a State-supported school, using a text book on Christian doctrine prepared especially for mixed schools.

"It would seem clear to a straight thinker that the only true American way to solve this truly American problem is to put religion into the curriculum just as soon as the necessary preliminary steps can be taken.

"In the name of the democracy whose welfare is interlocked with the highest hopes of mankind; in the name of loyalty to American history, American law, American institutions, and American ideals; in the name of fidelity to the true functions of the public school; in the name of the children, the real beneficiaries of the State's solicitude; in the name of education and the name of pure and undefiled religion, we appeal for the introduction of this vital subject as a required study in the compulsory courses of our public institutions."

A satisfactory and convincing affirmative answer to the question, "Do missions pay?" has recently been given by the experience of a Boston man who sent his check for $500 for mission work in Foochow, South China. This sum, as reported in the Missionary Herald, supported four Chinese pastors and preachers. One of them is the minister of a church seating 500 people, where he preaches to at least 200 every Sunday. Twenty-eight people united with the church in ten months. Two of these pastors organized Bible classes, one of them bringing into the church fifty men. Another visited the cities where the meetings that followed up the work of Sherwood Eddy were held, and to date 9,230 people have decided to study the Bible. Besides supporting these four native pastors, this fund of $500 supported eight theological students. This Boston business man thought that missions do pay and he smilingly sent in his check for another $500.

With reference to the missionary campaign which is to begin in October and will culminate in a national missionary congress in Washington, April 26 to 30, 1916, it is said that every important missionary agency in the country, home as well as foreign, is co-operating with the Laymen's Missionary Movement in the organization and conduct of the campaign. Several denominational laymen's movements and other affiliated organizations are making special plans to reap the benefit of the campaign in their own churches and among their own men.

The main objectives of the campaign are: to consider new world conditions and America's enlarged responsibility; to study the missionary progress of recent years; to project plans looking toward the accomplishment of our whole missionary duty; to emphasize the adequacy of the gospel to meet modern social conditions; to increase the spiritual power and efficiency of the local church; to secure the general use of the best methods of missionary education and finance; and to inspire laymen to take their part in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.

Convention committees have been organized, or are being formed in all of the cities where conventions are to be held, and these will have the aid of an experienced executive secretary for several weeks prior to the date of the convention. It is proposed that a campaign of education shall be conducted in connection with the work of promoting and organizing the conventions, and that the executive secretary shall remain on the field, wherever possible, for several weeks following the convention, to direct the carefully planned work of conservation and extension. In connection with the educational side of the campaign there will be a wide distribution of practical missionary pamphlets and other literature.

In the cities where conventions are to be held and in the immediate territory there are 25,000 churches. There are almost as many more churches in the outlying sections of the seventy-five convention districts, each of which covers a wide area, in some cases an entire State. So far as possible all the churches in each convention district will be invited to send their best men to the convention as delegates, and there is no limit to the number of delegates from a church. Each convention will last from two to three days. The programs will be educational and inspirational, and the topics will be grouped about the main objectives.

Billy Sunday has been holding evangelistic meetings in San Francisco this summer. It was thought that the presence of thousands at the great exposition gave opportunity for effective evangelistic work. As vice president of the committee having the matter in charge, Dr. Charles F. Aked, of the First Congregational Church, had been interested in the enterprise. He resigned, however, after listening to the sermons for awhile. As reported by the Christian Century, Chicago, Dr. Aked said, "I must be free to say that there is no such God as he pretends, no such Christ, no such heaven and no such hell—and that I cannot compromise my position as minister of Jesus Christ." Billy Sunday left San Francisco very indignant at the turn events had taken, and made his way to Los Angeles. This closes his work at the Western seaport.

The Union Theological Seminary, in connection with a summer session at Columbia University, held a summer conference on religion at which some of the most eminent men on the Union faculty spoke. The sessions were well attended and the conference is likely to become a permanent part of the Union program.

TOMORROW'S MENU.

"There's plenty of corn in Castile, but he who has none starves."—Spanish saying.

BREAKFAST.

Sliced Peaches.
Bacon and Eggs.
Hominy Waffles. Honey.
Coffee.

DINNER.

Consommé.
Roast Beef. Corn.
Baked Sweet Potatoes.
Cauliflower.
Cucumber Relish.
Lettuce Salad.
Chocolate and Vanilla Ice Cream.

SUPPER.

Clam Bisque.
Lettuce Sandwiches.
Iced Tea.
Plums and Peaches.

Waffles—One cupful cold cooked hominy, one egg well beaten, one tablespoonful of butter, half a teaspoonful of salt, two cupfuls of milk, and two cupfuls of flour and a teaspoonful of baking powder. Mix well and bake in very hot waffle irons.

Cucumber relish—Peel and chop fine three dozen medium-sized cucumbers and six onions and three green peppers and two red peppers. Add to this a cupful of salt and let stand overnight. Drain thoroughly in the morning and fill jars three quarters full of the mixture. Fill up with vinegar which has been boiled and cooked. Seal.

Bisque of clams—Chop two dozen soft-shell clams and add to their liquor and then add a small onion, sliced, two cloves, a sprig of parsley, and a blade of mace. Cook slowly for twenty minutes. Thicken a quart of milk with two tablespoonfuls of cornstarch rubbed smooth in a little cold water, cook in double boiler for ten minutes, and then strain the clam mixture into this. Season with salt, and serve in cups with whipped cream.

GERMANY'S FOOD PRICES ADVANCE

Time Drawing Closer When Masses Will Be Without Necessaries.

PORK IS NOW LUXURY

Butter, Cheese, Bread, Meats, and Other Products Soar—Blockade Will Tell.

By FREDERICK WERNER.

Berlin, Aug. 21.—Time and again I have heard from the lips of men in nearly all walks of life expressions such as this:

"If we lose this war we shall have been conquered not by the millions of soldiers who have surrounded us on all sides but who have never been able to pierce the walls of our living defense, but by the inhuman British blockade and the refusal of America to heed our protests against the starving of an entire nation."

As a matter of fact there is no absolute lack of anything here. If you have money enough you may still get any luxury your palate may desire, but the time is drawing closer when the great masses of the German people will not have money enough to buy even the necessaries of life. Neutral travelers who pay an occasional visit to Berlin stopping at hotels like the Adlon or the Kaiserhof, find the tables there as well provided as ever and the prices about the same as before the war, but neutral visitors see but the surface of things, and they do not know that these hotels which made enormous profits before the war are being run almost at a loss.

Below the surface, in the hundreds of thousands of middle-class homes, thrifty and experienced housewives are fighting as desperately against the increasing prices as the husbands of some are fighting the enemies east and west.

Figures published by the Reichsanzeiger give a vivid impression of the enemy the German housewives have to fight.

Statistics gathered in fifty of Germany's largest cities and showing the upward movement of prices during the past twelve months prove that butter has gone up 43 per cent, potatoes 96 per cent, rice 151 per cent, barley meal (used here much as oatmeal in America), 165 per cent, eggs 61 per cent, rye meal 65 per cent and peas 200 per cent. These figures show prices on May 1 and many articles have gone up in price since then.

Butter Prices Soar.

During the same period (May, 1914, to May, 1915) meat prices rose as follows: Beef, 35 per cent; veal, 38 per cent; mutton and lamb, 46 per cent; pork, 100 per cent.

Maximum prices were placed on pork, the principal meat food of the middle and working classes, but these prices were soon found impossible to maintain and pork began soaring, until it is now an absolute luxury. Time and again the "Vorwaerts" had pointed out how the high prices of meat tempt the farmers to disobey the government order not to give potatoes and grain to pigs, because they get much more for their grain using it in this way than by selling it.

It is just the same with milk. Prices of butter and cheese have gone up so enormously that farmers make all their milk into butter and cheese and milk is increasingly difficult to get. This, of course, is fatal to tens of thousands of babies. It is useless to keep the price of milk down while permitting the prices of butter and cheese to soar. The time is approaching when the making of dairy products will have to be forbidden at least in part to save the future generations.

In some places, as in Bavaria and Wuertemberg the military commanders have stepped in and meted out severe punishments to the usurers on foodstuffs, but in Prussia the government shows hesitation to interfere with the Junkers and large landed proprietors, whose support it cannot do without.

We are now being told that bread will be dearer yet during the coming year, owing to the drought and the resulting partial failure of the harvest, and housewives of the working classes are in despair. They do not see how they are going to get through another winter of war and blockade.

HOROSCOPE.

"The stars incline, but do not compel."

Sunday, August 22, 1915.

Owing to the contending forces of the stars this is held to be an unfavorable day. Mercury and Mars are strongly malefic early in the morning and later both Saturn and Neptune exercise an evil influence. Jupiter is in a place fairly fortunate.

Astrologers read for the next few months a period in which only those blessed with wealth will be removed from actual financial stress. Fear of want will take hold of persons of all classes, it is said, although trade and business conditions will be greatly improved.

The fear of poverty is held to be accentuated by the peculiar positing of the stars, which are sinister in their aspect. The cultivation of frugal habits will be advocated by pulpit and press.

There is a fairly good rule for those who solicit aid for philanthropy or charity. Ministers should be successful in making pleas for public institutions.

While this configuration prevails letter writing is not well guided, and they who express their thoughts should be exceedingly careful. The sign is especially forbidding for lovers.

It is not an auspicious time for domestic serenity. Conditions are believed to encourage irritability and unreasonableness, which men will show more readily than women.

Religious troubles continue to be foreshadowed. A Catholic prelate in America will be called to high service in Italy.

The death of an editor famous for many years is prophesied.

Socialist aggression will be encouraged in the United States by a foreign visitor. Sensational incidents will disturb public meetings and foment street encounters.

Political excitement will mark next month in a Western State in which a United States Senator and a former adherent will contend for public honors.

Next month will be a time of much peril for the United States. The stars presage trouble in which the navy becomes involved.

Persons whose birthdate it is have the augury of a prosperous year, but they will buy success at the cost of much worry. They should be careful of contracts and indorsements.

Children born on this day have lucky stars to guide them. These boys and girls are on the cusp and should partake of both Leo and Virgo characteristics.

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LOOPING NORTH AMERICA

IV.—The Land of the Native Son

By GEORGE R. MINER.

(Copyright, 1915.)

In the East of our United States, a "native son" is a person who raises his hat when California is mentioned and announces that he comes from "God's own country."

In California, when you speak of "a native son" you mean a flea.

That shows what 3,000 miles will accomplish in the animal kingdom. Even Darwin never suggested such a lightning change evolution as that. In passing, let me remark that the California flea is to his far-famed Italian cousin as a prizefighter is to a tango tea rat. He has a physique and method of his own. The only way to attract his attention is with a hammer. Nothing softer makes a dent on his hardshell Baptist conscience. It's a waste of time to try to corral him with a finger moistened in the mouth. It only makes him skid.

When it comes to ridding your anatomy of them entirely—provided, of course, you have some prejudice and don't like fleas—the only way is to shed all the clothes you were not born in and get into a bathtub filled with water hot enough to boil a lobster. Of course when you come out you won't be devoid of fleas, but they will be strangulated or so filled with water that they can't hop and can easily be scraped off.

Passing from these intimate remarks concerning "native sons," let us place ourselves in the Pacific Ocean headed for Southern California on a trip which loops North America by way of the canal.

The scenery in the Pacific Ocean differs from the scenery in the Atlantic in that on the Pacific the mighty deep throws things up at you, while on the Atlantic you are inclined to throw up things at the mighty deep. The Caribbean Sea seemed to be largely composed of restless water, while the calm Pacific Ocean all along the coasts of Central America and Mexico and Lower California seemed to be thickly mixed with huge turtles sleeping lazily on the surface, whales squirting up water like syphon bottles, huge shoals of tuna fish jumping in the air in long rows like regiments of soldiers, and other animals not to be found in the ordinary barnyard.

It seemed to be a popular place for sea life, but for nothing else. For five days we did not sight a ship or anything else that was not made when the world first attracted the attention of mankind. No freight steamer was churning along, no speck of white sail on the sky line to help fill the demands of commerce. We were out of the well-used ocean highway, and a singular thing, too, is that we were also out of wireless touch. Nearly a week without any sort of news! A regular American, used to quotations for breakfast and lunch, would have run around in circles until he went crazy.

To be sure, for a day or so, there were the Mexican mountains to look at, pale blue with jagged tops, a pretty setting, but behind them what deeds of violence and crime and political upheavals were going on we could only guess.

Meanwhile, the heat stuck to us like a porous plaster and many of the passengers got peevish. They began to quarrel with the food. They started rumors that the ice had run out although every one could have all he wanted of it, in spite of the fact that a bucketful of cracked ice would turn into warm water in five minutes.

The man from Warren, "Mass." (not Massachusetts, but Mass.), complained because he did not have pork and beans for every meal. It was the only thing he could eat, and, consequently, the cook was making him ill. Other people insisted on ordering fish after we had been two weeks in the tropics. They got the fish, we got the odor, and they got the stomachache.

The man who was determined to get his money's worth also was much in evidence. He insisted on dabbling in everything on the bill of fare, from the ship's monogram at the top of the date line at the bottom. Whenever the name of the dish was in French and he couldn't understand it, he took it as a personal insult and an attempt on the part of the company to do him.

"Now," said one of these gentry who made the life of the stewards a continual torture and who always ate up all the dessert in his reach while waiting for dinner to be served, "what they need on this ship is to get a woman to run the culinary department. They ought to hire Mrs. Bolles. She runs a summer hotel in West Virginia and her house is always full. People come there just to get her cooking. There ain't nothing in New York to touch it. She only charges two dollars a day, too. If they'd get her here people would come on this trip just for the cooking."

Suddenly it got cool.

We ripped our way through the level sea and sluggish brown turtles, past San Diego, and the outlying islands to San Pedro, the harbor of Los Angeles.

The first view of the California coast is not prepossessing. Nothing to be seen but rounded brown hills as devoid of verdure as a billiard ball is of fur. First trippers were looking for heavily laden orange trees leaning over the water. All they saw was mud and sand and rocks.

The only reason for San Pedro and its very expensive artificial harbor is that Los Angeles, twenty miles inland, wants it. The Creator never intended a harbor to be there, but the Federal government and Los Angeles apparently knew more about it, and stuck a long breakwater out into the Pacific and dredged out channels and filled in for piers. We docked at a huge concrete pier, so new that the shavings were still on the steps of the landing stage. There was a tiresome medical examination, taking two hours or so, by United States officials, the same thing that we had undergone at Colon. It seemed ridiculous, as we had not been to any foreign port—for the Zone is part of the United States—nor anywhere near any epidemic or flirted with any contagious disease. I should say it would be quite as reasonable to subject the passengers on the ferryboats between New York and Weehawken to a health inspection. Those little army doctors that conducted the examination were almost as important as the Panamanian policemen. They made that inspection a real function.

"Look out, this is moving picture stuff."

Nobody had been really ill the whole trip. One tragedy had occurred. The ship's officers kept quiet about it, and while the passengers all knew it, they seemed to think that the subject should not be discussed. A sort of unwritten law pervaded all minds and stopped talk without any effort on the part of the officers to attain that desired end. A man in the second cabin fell down a companionway and broke his neck. Death was instantaneous. The ship was stopped at 4 o'clock the next morning, and after the purser had read the prayers for burial at sea the canvas-wrapped body was silently slid into the ocean. To the half dozen people who were present at the ceremony it was most impressive.

Los Angeles refers to the harbor at San Pedro as "the harbor of Los Angeles." By the same token I should think that Chicago folks might refer to New York as "the harbor of Chicago." That's the kind of people they are in Los Angeles. They are not overlooking any bets. Their plans and specifications demand that Los Angeles be first and everything else a bad tenth. No intermediate places. That's why it is a bigger city today than San Francisco is, but San Franciscans don't admit that. They assert that Los Angeles has simply grabbed up a lot of towns that don't belong to it at all any more than that it would be fair to count in Oakland and Berkeley and all those places across the bay as part of San Francisco.

Los Angeles is stuck on herself for the very good reason that she has a right to be. It's a fine city, full of enterprise and determination, but the population is not Californian at all. They are all farmers or people who have gone there for the climate. The climate, by the way, is the only reason for Los Angeles' boom. It is monotonously good. As scenery is all there is to Switzerland, the climate is about all there is to Southern California.

I haven't any doubt that the State will be divided som time. Los Angeles wants it and they are the kind of people who generally get what they want. It wouldn't hurt San Francisco any, for that is geographically a natural metropolis. It is the outlet for all those wonderful fertile valleys that drain into the bay.

There is another factor that dominates Los Angeles almost as much as that everlastingly good climate. It's the moving-picture actor. He's all over the place and a perfect pest.

A policeman was standing in the middle of the street, presumably to direct the traffic. I asked him for directions to a certain street.

"Oh, I don't know," he replied. "I'm a moving-picture actor. Won't you step one side? You'll spoil my picture."

A distinguished actress had just arrived in the city. There was a little commotion on the street and some figures dashed by.

"Good heavens!" she exclaimed. "That's Fred. Think of having a husband who is being chased down the streets of a big city by some trained bears. They call it art, too."

However, no resident pays any attention to the performances of the movie people. The click of the camera does not arouse the slightest interest. If anybody does some fool thing in public, it causes no comment. It is taken for granted that he is doing it for the movies. I imagine many a man has got out of a scrape that way. It's an ever present and ready-made excuse for most any kind of conduct.

Criminals have not been slow to take advantage of this and turn it to their own ends. A somewhat lawless element has gathered around Los Angeles and hold-ups are not uncommon. Only a few days before this was written, three robbers, passing as a moving-picture outfit, with a fake camera, held up a man and stripped him of his money, while the poor victim yelled for help and shouted that it was a genuine robbery. The robber with the camera simply waved the crowd back with his hand and said:

"Look out! This is moving-picture stuff. Keep away; don't spoil the film."

The onlookers believed him and left the highwaymen to finish their work in peace. They say that the man who was cleaned out was the maddest man on the Pacific Slope. Can you blame him?

Los Angeles is the noisiest city on the map or off. The street cars are about as big as Pullman coaches and wherever tracks cross they make a noise that would put a boiler factory to blush, while the horns on the fire engines are the most fiendish destroyers of the peace that were ever invented. Half a dozen of them would drive the Germans out of Belgium or frighten them to death.

But for all its noise and its movies and its too-good climate Los Angeles is a mighty interesting and pleasant city. Poor old San Francisco certainly needs to look to her laurels.

The little State fair at San Diego is a gem. It's perfect in its harmonious construction, all the buildings being in the Spanish style of architecture. The streets, the water front and the mountains are all highly suggestive of Nice, except that the climate is about five times as good as it is at Nice. The exhibits are largely confined to agricultural products, as that is about the only industry they are really interested in down there.

The war has done those fruit growers a lot of harm. It has been like a body blow to many of them, particularly to the folks who have apricot orchards. An apricot is always referred to here as a "cot." One grower who came on from the East a couple of years ago to make his fortune told me that he had just sold his crop for $13 a ton, when last year he refused $35 a ton for the crop. Last year's dried apricots are still on the market, and can be bought for a good deal less than the packers paid for them on the tree. It seems that the great bulk of the "cot" crop was in the part dried and exported to Europe. That trade is now nothing, but, fortunately, the dried "cots" keep all right for a number of years.

It seems there has been considerable smuggling of opium from the Isthmus to California. The custom authorities went through our baggage on the pier at San Francisco with a searchlight and scrambled up our personal belongings into a regular mess.

Confound them!

The man who was determined to get his money's worth.

MANY LONDON WOMEN WEAR KHAKI UNIFORMS

Members of Ambulance, Hospital, and Yeomanry Corps Attract Attention in the Streets.

London, Aug. 21.—The social upheaval caused by the great war is in the fact that certain women have adopted khaki uniforms of course, strictly from a working point of view—and now are to be seen saluting military officers in uniform in the streets—for all the world like simple soldiers of less strenuous times. Officers at a loss what to do under such novel circumstances sometimes look the other way, but the saucy subaltern, seeing an opportunity for a lark, sometimes stops and questions the female "Tommy" as to her regiment, etc.

It appears that these fair soldiers are members of different sections of the Women's Volunteer Ambulance Corps, hospital and Yeomanry corps that they all adopted khaki as it had so much to do with defying dirt. They also claim that the wearing of military uniform is useful as an aid to discipline and efficiency. Anyhow, these girls in uniforms are doing good work, which is so far recognized by French and Belgian soldiers who know what they have done at the front that they in their turn are paid the tribute of a salute by French and Belgian officers as well as by the common soldiers.