The Washington Herald

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING BY
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY
1323 New York Avenue. Telephone MAIN 3300.

CLINTON T. BRAINARD, President and Editor.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER:
Daily and Sunday.....45 cents per month
Daily and Sunday.....$5.40 per year
Daily, without Sunday.....35 cents per month

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:
Daily and Sunday.....45 cents per month
Daily and Sunday.....$4.40 per year
Daily, without Sunday.....25 cents per month
Daily, without Sunday.....$3.00 per year
Sunday, without Daily.....$2.40 per year

Entered at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

(First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald

CONTENT WITH LITTLE.

'Tis wonderful amid life's rush, its daily roar and rout,
How many things we think we want that we can do without.
There's so much joy in little things, in big so many woes,
I envy no man's garden if he'll let me have a rose.

(Copyright, 1915.)

A defense area round London has been approved by King George. The report says it is twenty miles round but omits to say how high.

Voters were bought for the price of a drink in Indianapolis, but the testimony does not show how many times they changed parties on election day.

An American, former consul at Hanover, has subscribed $125,000 to the new German war loan, thus acquiring at least a rooting interest in the war.

Capt. von Papen seems to think that American newspaper editors are not human beings and that therefore he was privileged to call them "idiotic Yankees."

If the Balkans get into the war more than a year after the great conflict began the peace advocates will be forced to admit that their job is too big for them.

After a brief but heated debate on matters political Sheriff Kinkead, of Hudson County, N. J.—he of the Bayonne strike fame—struck Collector of the Port Otto Wittpenn a heavy blow on his clerk.

A fugitive from justice permitted the flip of a coin to decide for him whether to commit suicide or return to the scene of his crime and make good. He is still living, but he won't be able to make good by flipping coins.

After a delay of twenty-four hours caused by the bride's train being late a woman of 73 and a man of 75 were married in Washington yesterday. Imagine how the impatient bridegroom must have fumed and denounced the railroad!

It is suggested that the Vienna government has failed to understand that it is the desire of the United States that Ambassador Dumba be recalled unconditionally. If that is the case Vienna must be sadly in need of a new staff of translators.

Not alone the visitors to Washington, but a great many of its residents could read with profit the rules of Chief of Police Pullman for safety of person and property. A lot of trouble would be avoided by observing them rigidly at all times.

No sooner did Mr. Henry Ford commence to wish his "Baby Submarine" on the Navy Department than an indignant inventor comes forward and claims that he thought of it first. Funny the way these peace promoters are always scrapping about something.

"There is about as much danger of any of the European nations attacking the United States as there is of mice in my office attacking me," declares Senator Vardaman. Still it is well to bear in mind that a piece of cheese would not be as safe as the Senator.

"Is the Kaiser planning a seventh great power in Europe?" is the question considered in the columns of one of our contemporaries. We think that august monarch is engaged upon the universal problem of how to keep the lower rim of the vest from parting company with the upper edge of the trouserines.

A negro boy between 12 and 14 years of age has been legally hanged in Georgia, confessing the crime for which the Georgia law prescribes the death penalty. Of course he did not realize the enormity of his offense, and it is difficult to understand a condition of society that demands the life of a child under such circumstances, except upon the theory that he was not regarded as a human being and was simply blotted out of existence to save trouble and expense.

President Wilson has written a letter to former Gov. Cox, of Ohio, in which he discusses the powers of Federal bureaus and commissions to investigate and recommend changes in the tariff; and this has been interpreted in some quarters as an admission by the President that he is favorable to revision. Certainly there is nothing in the letter to warrant any such conclusion. It would seem to be a case of the wish being father to the thought among those Democrats who thus interpret the President's words.

A Philadelphia judge has ordered the arrest of a man who gave his 12-year-old son cigarettes. "A boy's father has no more right to give his son cigarettes than a storekeeper has to sell them to a minor," he said. The accuracy of the judge's interpretation of the law is yet to be tested. In this particular case it would probably be better for the boy to have the law look after his welfare, but there would seem to be danger in a general application of such a theory of the law, and who is to fix the limit?

Conciliation.

Germany in her latest diplomatic communication has agreed to respect the rules of international law in some minor particulars in order to show her conciliatory attitude toward the United States. Therefore, let us throw up our hats and shout, besides clasping to our bosoms as men and brothers Count von Bernstorff, Herr von Jagow, Admiral von Tirpitz, and Count Reventlow. Having done that let us consider what all this magnanimity implies. Germany agrees not to sink American ships carrying conditional contrabrand. The illegality of such a step has never been questioned by international lawyers. For the status of conditional contraband can only be decided by a prize court with the facts before it, and condemnation of the cargo does not carry with it the condemnation of the ship. To sink a neutral ship laden with conditional contraband is to arrogate to the belligerent commander the duties of the prize court judge and to destroy a vessel which the prize court cannot in any event condemn.

Germany agrees to sink American vessels carrying contraband only when it is impossible to take them to port for adjudication. This, of course, means that Germany reserves the right to sink without further ado all American ships carrying contraband for the simple reason that the German submarines—the only German warships able to operate outside of the Baltic—cannot conceivably take their prizes into port. And no American vessel is likely to reach or has yet reached the Baltic with contraband except contraband destined for Germany.

International law recognizes the right of a belligerent to sink without adjudication neutral ships laden with contraband where the circumstances render it dangerous or impossible to take the prize into port for adjudication. Only in such case the belligerent is to preserve all of the ship's papers and other documentary evidence in the case. And the better practice requires that the owners of ships and cargo alike shall be indemnified unless the evidence against them is overwhelming. Submarine commanders have not hitherto dared to make any kind of visit and search except in one or two isolated instances.

In nine cases out of ten vessels sunk by German submarines have been torpedoed without warning—as the Nebraskan was—and the likelihood that in future the German submarine commanders will visit and search American ships and examine their papers before deciding to torpedo them is small indeed. What Germany intends to do is to have the submarine commander sink the ship and then allege boldly that she was laden with contraband or did not stop when signaled. Then, when the matter is investigated and the evidence produced that the ship was sunk without warning and did not carry contraband, Germany will take the position that she must necessarily accept the testimony of the submarine commander and the evidence gleaned from "authoritative" but unnamed sources that the ship carried contraband, but that in order to conciliate the United States she is willing that these questions shall be submitted to The Hague for arbitration.

But Germany is absolutely deprived of any right to sink American ships carrying contraband by the Prussian treaty of 1839. With this treaty the American people are not much concerned. They would be satisfied if they thought Germany intended to follow the rules of international law. But the treaty is there, nevertheless. Germany insists that it is capable of a construction that suits her view of the case, and while this contention is absurd it is not more absurd than 50 per cent of the claims advanced on behalf of litigants in the civil courts.

Our crucial difference with the German government is that quite apart from any treaty we refuse to admit that the rule of international law and of humanity, which compels a belligerent warship to insure the safety of passengers and crew of any merchant ship that it seizes or sinks, is fully complied with by requiring them to take to the boats, either before or after the ship has been torpedoed, and to get ashore as best they can or wait to be rescued by some vessel that the submarine commander doesn't happen to chase away. And in this respect our contention and the rule of international law make no distinction between Americans traveling or manning American vessels and Americans traveling on or manning belligerent merchantmen. We insist that their lives must not be jeopardized either by actual attack or by exposure in small boats on the high seas unless the merchantman attempts to escape, in which case passengers and crew alike become identified with the ship and the liability for their safety is shifted to the owners of the ship.

But Germany has not yet abandoned her preposterous claim to be entitled to sink British merchantmen without warning, and even now while she agrees to sink American ships carrying contraband only when it is impossible to take them to port for a prize court adjudication—and that means always—she does not give any undertaking to insure the safety of passengers and crew.

Germany has repudiated and still repudiates all responsibility for the deaths of American women and children on the Lusitania, on the Falaba, on the Arabic and the Hesperian. In the case of the Arabic she has permitted her Ambassador to intimate that while not admitting any of our contentions or accepting the clear evidence in the case she is probably willing to do the handsome thing rather than have trouble. But this generous offer has as yet assumed no official form, and her willingness to do the right thing must be preceded by arbitration by a Hague tribunal of overwhelming evidence to controvert which Germany has nothing but an impudent assertion. And in the case of the Hesperian Germany has flatly denied that the ship was sunk by a torpedo, believing that no definite evidence to the contrary would be forthcoming. But unfortunately definite evidence to the contrary has been forthcoming, not only in the shape of fragments of the torpedo that struck the Hesperian, but in the shape of the evidence of the captain and crew of the Crosby, who actually saw the sinking and were immediately pursued by the submarine that sunk the Hesperian.

We must expect no satisfaction from Germany on the submarine question, only eel-like wriggling, vague and unofficial promises, an agreement to submit minor questions or indisputable evidence to a Hague tribunal in the distant future. But, of course, there is nothing to prevent our indulging in the thrilling game of diplomatic jiu-jitsu until the cows come home. There are some, like Col. Roosevelt, who regard that attitude as intolerable. There are plenty of others who think that, undignified as it may be, it is better to let matters be as they are rather than undertake the profitless task of severing diplomatic relations that can do us no good and may harm the unfortunates whom we have been striving to assist.

In the meanwhile the only gleam of light on the horizon seems to lie in the fact that the British navy appears to be making life under the ocean wave about as hazardous a pursuit as cooking dynamite. In view of the ready solution that this suggests to our own trouble we may perhaps rejoice therein without incurring the accusation of harboring a too flexible neutrality.

The Telephone.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

Many people make the mistake of abusing the telephone operators. These workers, at what must be a nerve-racking task, are sometimes irritating; but they receive much more censure than they deserve. Often they are blamed for delays when they are not responsible. The truth is, however, that they have telephone users at their mercy, and sometimes they exercise their power to avenge their hurt feelings. Those of them who have any sense of humor must often laugh at the expressions of impotent rage that reach them over the wire.

Some one has called the telephone "first aid to liars." The expression at once conveys its meaning. Some people may even find a verification in their own experience. There are many who use the telephone to send messages that they would not dare to deliver in the presence of those to whom the messages are sent. They either get others to say the messages over the wire, or they speak themselves, distance and protection from scrutiny giving them courage. There is no doubt that it is much easier to fib over the telephone than to fib while under searching observation. The complications of social life lead many people who have not the courage to say "No" to personal proffers of hospitality to resort to the telephone to escape.

Of course, in this kind of expediency there is cowardice. And the telephone is often made a resort for cowards. Many persons with a grievance will abuse the object of their enmity over the telephone when they would not have the courage to say a word of reproach to his face. Here, too, there is safety in distance, not merely from the risk of personal chastisement, but from that moral power which some people exercise by their mere presence. Public men are often abused over the telephone by men who refuse to give their names—sometimes even by women.

In placing the telephone in a house very little sense is often shown; but, it must be admitted, the problem may be difficult. If the bell is too near it may become a nuisance; if it is too far away or out of hearing it may be an inconvenience. It is unfair to the rest of the world for those who have telephones to be careless in their response to calls. And yet, in this regard, many telephone users show great selfishness. In calling up a number it is particularly exasperating to know that the line is not busy and that some one is at home and yet not to be able to secure a response.

Story-tellers, jokers, and all persons who perform in private houses, such as musicians and lecturers, are grievous sufferers from the telephone. It may rudely break into the noblest of Beethoven's sonatas, the most eloquent of perorations, the most thrilling or side-splitting of tales. We all know the misery of having a good story interrupted, whether we are listening or telling it ourselves. Sometimes it is the speaker who is called away, sometimes the listener.

If it is the speaker he has to begin all over again, when the atmosphere is changed and the interest has been dissipated. Politeness demands its repetition, however, and the situation is rendered all the more poignant when politeness forgets itself and the story is not asked for.

Almost as humiliating, on the other hand, is the insistence of the returning guest on hearing the story he has missed. Unless it is particularly fine, one of those infectious things that can bear repetition, the others have no desire to hear it again. During its recital, always without the earlier spontaneity, they possess themselves with a show of patience. Such a test is usually a dreadful exposure of the average dinner story's inferior quality.

Voices over the telephone are always interesting. In some cases they make clear and almost startling revelations of character. Isolated from those other physical qualities which may be distracting, they seem like direct expressions of the spirit. "What a nice disposition Nellie has," I recently heard a lady remark, as she turned from the telephone. "You can feel it in her voice."

We sometimes realize for the first time quality of voice in people we know intimately when it comes to us over the wire. There is one friend I take a special pleasure in hearing at the telephone. Her voice rises from those quiet depths where the wonderful traits of character live, serenity, gentleness, tolerance and kindness. Just to hear her the sound is restful. Instinctively I find myself trying to reply in the same way.

Even in the hard conditions of telephoning those traits deny the power of irritation and noise and hurry and convey a sense of the strength and the beauty of peace.

Edison's New Battery.

Thomas A. Edison now has a battery that will not generate chlorine gas. He did not invent it within the last two or three days. He was not moved to investigate the subject by the present war, or even by the sinking of the F-4. Five years ago naval officers who realized that chlorine gas was the greatest danger in submarines appealed to Mr. Edison to invent a battery that would not produce it. He solved the problem substantially two years ago, but some difficulties remained. It is announced now that these have been surmounted, and a battery that will not evolve chlorine is now available for submarines.—Philadelphia Record.

Learning Spanish.

Four hundred students were registered in the Spanish classes when the University of Washington opened this fall, and 200 more were denied admission because the classes were already overcrowded. Almost all universities are facing the same problem, and many of them report that there is a corresponding falling off in the registration in the German classes. High schools all over the country report the same eagerness to learn Spanish. The classes in the New York high schools are overflowing. In Seattle seven teachers are giving Spanish lessons in the high schools. This sudden growth of interest is due to recently awakened knowledge of the opportunities for trade with Latin America.—New York World

Neutrality of U. S. Consul Gaffney Under Suspicion

New York, Sept. 25.—The Herald this morning prints the following:

Thomas St. John Gaffney, United States Consul General at Munich, Germany, has attracted much unfavorable criticism concerning his conduct of his office since hostilities started in Europe. It has been asserted that Mr. Gaffney has permitted his strong feelings against the English to sway him in his actions at a time when he not only had charge of affairs for this government, but for Great Britain. The State Department, it was learned yesterday, has taken cognizance of the complaints made by certain individuals against Mr. Gaffney, and it is felt by men in high official circles in Washington that Mr. Gaffney has been extremely impolitic at a time when it was better for the government of this country that he should make the greatest effort to be neutral.

Through the allegations against Mr. Gaffney a remarkable revelation is made. Letters have been sent to him by an officer of an Irish organization in this city by way of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate here. It is remarkable that this was possible, when Count von Bernstorff and Dr. Dumba have been continually protesting that they could not get into proper communication with their respective governments.

The German and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors have told President Wilson that they were practically cut off from their respective foreign offices, at a time when a casual America was able to request that a letter addressed to Mr. Gaffney be sent to Munich, through the medium of the consulate of the dual empire.

Forwarded from Consul's Office.

Moreover, through copies of letters in the possession of the Herald, it is learned that the correspondence from the American citizen to Mr. Gaffney had been forwarded by the persons in the Austrian consul's office. There seemed to be no difficulty about the delivery of a missive written by Denis A. Spellissy. Mr. Spellissy, incidentally, is treasurer of the American committee of the Irish National Volunteers, and for many years has known Mr. Gaffney. Mr. Spellissy has a law office at No. 256 Broadway. He just wanted a letter sent, and apparently did not wish it to go through the usual channels, though why he did not is still a mystery.

Since the beginning of the war the State Department has maintained a special pouch service to the consulates in Germany. Mail thus sent to officials of the United States is not subjected to censorship by the Germans. Mr. Spellissy, if he wanted to communicate with Mr. Gaffney, could easily have sent the letter by this means. But the letter might have been read by the State Department. Also the missive might have been read at the American Embassy in Berlin. All mail from belligerent countries to private persons in the United States and forwarded through consuls is read at the State Department. However, in a letter dated August 12, 1915, Mr. Spellissy sent this missive to Ludwig von Kleinwaechter, No. 24 State street:

"Dear Sir—I am very desirous of getting the enclosed letter delivered to Mr. Gaffney, our consul at Munich.

"May I ask your aid in doing so, as I find no other means of getting it to him?"

"Yours faithfully,

"DENIS A. SPELLISSY.

"Per M. S., Confidential Secretary."

No Difficulty in Communication.

Eight days afterward this note was received by Mr. Spellissy from a person in the Austro-Hungarian consul's office:

"In reply to your favor of the 12th instant, addressed to Dr. Ludwig von Kleinwaechter, I beg to say that I have forwarded the enclosure to Mr. Gaffney.

"Believe me, dear sir,

"Yours very truly,

"For the I. and R. Consul General."

Hence it is shown that the Austrians here had no great difficulty in getting their communications to Germans.

Mr. Spellissy lives at 104 West Forty-eighth street. He was dining when I arrived there and after a wait of a few minutes the treasurer of the American Committee of Irish National Volunteers mounted the stairs from the basement. He lighted the gas and settled back in an armchair.

"Are you in the habit of sending much mail to Germany for your organization?" he was asked.

"No," responded Mr. Spellissy.

"Have you not an agent for the society there?"

"No."

"Have you discovered that it is more convenient to send letters by way of the German or Austrian consuls than the usual means of communication?"

"No, not that I know of."

"Know Mr. Gaffney?"

"Yes, I know Mr. Gaffney."

"Did you send any letters to him by way of the Austro-Hungarian consulate?"

"Not that I remember."

Written While He Was Away.

"Well," said the reporter, "perhaps you will recall sending this request to Dr. Kleinwaechter."

The reporter presented a copy of the missive. Mr. Spillissy raised his eyebrows, frowned, and then a smile lighted his countenance. Yes, he remembered something about the communication, but he thought that it had been written while he was away. It was hinted that perhaps one of his stenographers had thought to send the letter to Mr. Gaffney he would be safe in asking the Austrian consul's office if they could forward it for Mr. Spillissy.

"And what did the letter to Mr. Gaffney contain?"

"It was just a friendly letter," answered Mr. Spillissy. "I recollect that I told him that he should not bother himself about the newspaper comments, as lies were being told in all of them, especially against Germany."

"Was there any particular reason for not sending the letter to an official of the United States government via Washington?"

"Well, yes; I knew that it would be opened. All my letters are opened. I know that, but it does not worry me. But this was a personal missive, and I did not wish to have it read by everybody. I may have said in it that I hoped that the allies would be beaten. Remember, that I might have said that, but I don't know that I did. I have not heard from Mr. Gaffney since he was consul general at Dresden, Germany. This was a sympathetic letter to him, as I know him to be a fellow of tremendous nerve."

Mr. Spellissy declared he could not remember any particular thing about the missive. He had known Mr. Gaffney and he believed that Mr. Gaffney many years ago had been introduced to him by Charles O'Connor Hennessy, brother of John A. Hennessy.

"But there's nothing to this. There's no reason to make a fuss about it," suggested Mr. Spellissy. "What's to show that they received it at the consulate?"

"Oh," said the reporter, "that's all done. Probably you do not remember getting a note from the Austrian consul's office telling you that the letter would be forwarded?"

Dr. Kleinwaechter's Views.

Mr. Spellissy was not in a remembering mood. The reporter then showed him a copy of the letter from the Austrian consulate's office. However, to Mr. Spellissy it was just stirring up a teapot tempest.

The following day the reporter went to the Austrian Consulate and Dr. Klienwaechter was not in. The secretary made himself known and he looked at the letters. Dr. Kleinwaechter immediately appeared to look at them himself. He did not care whether the letters had been received and written, did not care to say how it had been forwarded, and so far as Irish societies were concerned he knew nothing much about them.

Dr. Kleinwaechter, who is one of the Austro-Hungarian vice consuls, said his familiarity with the Irish World and Gaelic publication was about all he knew about Irish organizations. Incidentally, he declared that when the letter was written from the Austro-Hungarian Consulate he was away on a vacation. Mr. Spellissy, it will be remembered, also was away.

Thereupon the reporter went to see Mr. Spellissy again. He was in his office. His stenographer initials are "M. S." Mr. Spellissy was reminded that to eliminate all mystery concerning the letter he wrote to Mr. Gaffney it might be well to look up the copy of his letter file. Mr. Spellissy still was of the opinion that the letter was but a mole hill, and he was not sure whether he could lay his hands on the copy. At any rate, he did not.

"Say," said Mr. Spellissy, "would you mind telling me where you got those letters?"

There was light in his eye, which dimmed when the reporter answered.

"In the Herald office."

He repeated that the letter of Mr Gaffney had been sent that particular way because he did not wish it to be read.

DUMBA, THE MACEDONIAN.

Who is this Dr. Dumba who thus sets himself to surpass the traditional record of Austro-Hungarian stupidity? His diplomatic career has been somewhat unfortunate. Of Macedonian origin, he acquired his first experience in that tortuous school of diplomacy, the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Belgrade. The sort of work that the Ballplatz used to demand of its representatives in the Serbian capital has been made sufficiently known to the world in a series of unsavoury trials and scandals. There is no reason for thinking that Dr. Dumba was anything but an efficient pupil in the arts that earned for Count Forgach a European disrepute. But before he could fully prove his worth his career was cut short by domestic difficulties that led to his temporary retirement from active service. Eventually, however, he was reinstated, and the completeness of his restoration to official favour was shown when he was appointed to succeed Baron von Hengelmuller as Ambassador to Washington. In the American Capital his peculiar training and talents found little scope until the outbreak of the war. But the present revelations prove that he has not been idle, and that his energies have been marked with the unscrupulous obtuseness that is characteristic of Austro-Hungarian diplomacy. The Ballplatz can always rely on the pliability of its agents. The outside world can as confidently count upon their stupidity. If the Austro-Hungarian diplomatists were as clever as they are professionally unmoral they would be formidable. As it is, Dr. Dumba, with his serene assumption that the methods and atmosphere of Vienna are identical with those of Washington, may be taken as a type of his class. His blunderings have got him into trouble, and the American people and the American government may very safely be trusted to deal with him as he deserves. It is entirely their own affair, and has no interest for any of the allied powers but that of amusement and disgust. At the same time, and whatever its outcome, the incident can hardly be reckoned one that will add to the good relations between the United States and Germany or her ally. To preserve these good relations has suddenly become an object of policy with both Berlin and Vienna. The journals in both capitals are assiduously proclaiming that the Balkan situation calls for the undivided attention of Austro-German statesmanship, and that all external complications should, if possible, be avoided. Many, subtle, and unexpected are the ramifications of this war. But it has led to no stranger development than that the policy of the Teutonic powers towards the United States should be regulated, even for a moment, by their ambitions in the Balkans. Or, if any by-product of the world upheaval is more astonishing than this, it is that Dr. Dumba, a Macedonian by descent, should be in a position, as Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Washington, to disturb the diplomatic friendship between President Wilson and the Emperor Francis Joseph.—From a London exchange.

THE LOAN TO THE ALLIES.

The delegation of eminent London and Paris financiers, lately arrived in this country, appears to have proposed in general a five-year loan at a rate of something around 5 per cent, guaranteed by the French and English governments, and payable, interest and principal, in American currency. The sum under discussion is very large; it has raised the question whether an operation of the sort is prudent, and who, after all, will buy the bonds. The answer seems to be that the American money market is in absolutely plethoric condition, that our banks are provided with available credits to an almost unprecedented degree, and yet that new issues of securities in the United States, to banks or to private investors, have been of extraordinarily small volume during the twelvemonth past. The question, then, is not so much of ability to subscribe as of the value of the investment.

It is difficult to see how any serious question can arise regarding this, since the whole credit of the French republic and of the British Empire stands behind the bonds. The further question, as to whether so large a loan of capital by our markets to France and England would be a violation of neutrality, is already answered. No valid objection to the operation on that ground could exist. As a matter of fact, not only was the Russian government last winter permitted to raise a substantial credit fund in New York City for purchase of war munitions, and not only did the French government borrow for that and other purposes in New York on its short-time notes, but the German government itself sold $10,000,000 5 per cent notes on the American market last spring, and even went so far as to invite and receive subscriptions in the United States for the imperial German war loan.—The Independent.

BRITISH WAR COST HIGH.

Costing Her £5,000,000 Daily and Germany Only £3,000,000.

Berlin, Sept. 25.—In discussing the success of the German war loan and the increasing difficulties of England in raising funds, the Trans-Ocean News Bureau gives the following statistics of the cost of the war at present:

"England is now spending £5,000,000 daily. Germany is spending not much over £3,000,000. This means that while Germany is spending but 75 cents per head population England is spending $5 cents per head.

THE OPEN FORUM

In Which Readers of The Herald Give Their Views on Current Topics.

Editor of The Washington Herald: It may be presumptuous for the individual to attempt to discuss the war, which is now raging in Europe, or the probability of the United States becoming involved in war in the near or remote future. But considering the persistent claim, made by the Germans, that the allies are defeated and that German Kultur is to become a dominant and controlling influence throughout the world, is it not time for the citizen to enquire what this important element is that the people of the United State will be compelled to consider. The Germans in America are demanding that their language be taught and everybody instructed to speak it. It is the forerunner of that most remarkable thing called Kultur. My idea of Kultur, according to my interpretation of the German meaning, is that it follows an idea to the ultimate dividing it into its component parts, with a view of reaching out for and getting the best that can be obtained. It is a refined efficiency, controlling every effort of the mind, and is guided by an individual whose Kultur is of the highest order and whose authority and power is unlimited. It is the invisible impulse that impels the multitude to action.

Prof. Hugo Munsterberg says that the German parents and the German school teacher, who taught the children discipline and thoroughness, have won this war. He also says that this country can never train an army successfully at Plattsburg. The training must begin at home. These are the rudiments of Kultur.

In this country we sing "I Did Not Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier." In Germany they sing "When My Country Calls My Boy Is Ready." We are said to be too proud to fight. When the ocean is Germanized and her victorious fleet, augmented by the captured allied fleets, sweeps down the Atlantic coast and lands her invincible cohorts upon our shores and then continues the voyage and knocks the Monroe doctrine into an inactive condition we will be compelled to fight. All this may seem overdrawn, but any one who has read the books and papers, written by German authors, will soon get the idea well fixed in his mind, that the Kaiser would some day make an effort to obtain a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. Prof. Schmoller, Dr. Hotzsch, Dr. Unold, Dr. Vintner and many other prominent German Kulturists have said that Germany must pursue a policy of expansion and obtain for Germany a land whose energy and industry would make her a power greater than England or the United States.

Prof. Schmoller says that the German fleet will be able to secure for her the future which should be hers in South America. Egoism is a disgusting characteristic and German Kultur is nothing more than egoism carried to extremes. It will never be accepted even as a theory in the United States and when Dr. Unold says: "The eGrmans are morally, intellectually and mechanically superior and, for these reasons, destined to rule the world," he simply shows himself an egotist. The Germans are the wolves of Europe snarling, bitting, tearing, but their fangs will be drawn and they will become as harmless as rabbits.

H. GILBERT.

A Prohibition Argument.

Editor of The Washington Herald: I wonder if your paper is fair-minded enough to publish the following: I have noticed several editorials virulently attacking prohibition and making frequent use of that time-honored and much-overworked slogan, "Prohibition does not prohibit." Allow me to ask the author a question or two.

Do our penal laws prohibit fraud or theft? Does capital punishment or life imprisonment prohibit murder? If not wouldn't it be a much better plan to tax these vices, thereby improving trade and enriching the government.

One more question if I may be so bold. Do the vice laws prohibit vice? Are not in this very Capital "disorderly establishments being carried on under the very shadow of the Capitol?" Is this not in defiance of the law? Why is The Herald taking such a useless stand as to attack these institutions with the aid of such foolish laws? Why, think what a loss to the trade of the community it would be were these laws enforced.

If the gentleman believes "prohibition does not prohibit," what's his "kick" anyhow? Is he afraid he won't get his little glass at bedtime? Oh no, my dear friend, "prohibition does not prohibit." Is he altruistic and fears the dear government won't be able to pay its bills? There are other ways, my friend, human ingenuity is not yet exhausted. And think of the loss to the business of the country (but man alive "it does not prohibit," so how can that be?).

Man will always, when he has a dollar, continue to spend 50 cents of it on whisky instead of food and clothes and other comforts for his wife and children, and thus he will save the country from financial rack and ruin.

THOMAS PORTER MILLER.

Railways And the I. C. C.

Editor of The Washington Herald: Commenting upon my views on the subject of railway regulation, Mr. M. J. Francis, in an interesting article in "The Open Forum," September 19, takes issue with the contention that the personnel of the Interstate Commerce Commission should be composed of railroad men, and points to the present commission as an unqualified success. As a matter of fact, however, the commission is a failure. Worse still, it is a positive stumbling-block to the prosperity of the nation.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has never been able, apparently, to appreciate the situation of the American railways, and the cause of this has been that the commissioners were not railroad men. They have been dealing with a subject which they are not posted on. The fact that in the service of the commission there are men who have had railway experience does not alter the situation. The commissioners themselves, the men who hand down the decisions, are absolutely without experience in the railroad world.

We do not appoint insurance men to serve on boards of pharmacy, or druggists to comprise the insurance commissions of the country. What respect would any one have for a medical board composed of lawyers or a board of lawyers made up of doctors? But the policy rejected in those appointments is employed with respect to railroads—which is one of the greatest of sciences.

Mr. Francis declares that "it is a matter of record that whenever the rates or practices of a carrier have been under investigation, and the carrier has sustained them with incontrovertible facts, the commission has not faltered in its duty of doing right by the carriers." The writer contends that the commission has "faltered" and has failed in virtually every such instance on record. Its most recent failure was in the case of the Western roads a few weeks ago. By a vote of 5 to 2 two roads were allowed to make a wholly inadequate advance in freight rates. The two broad-minded and public-spirited commissioners who dissented from the majority's decisions were Chairman James S. Harlan and Commissioner Winthrop M. Daniels. Mr. Harlan said that "the record, in my judgment, justified an increase in rates on substantially the basis proposed by the carriers," and Commissioner Daniels argued that "just and reasonable increased rates should be permitted—not grudgingly." The five other members of the commission, however, showed an utter incapacity to grasp the needs of the roads.

A German View.

The Eastern roads' petition for a 5 per cent increase, and the petitions of other carriers for various needs, have all been given shabby treatment by the Interstate Commerce Commission. That the American railways are treated worse than the roads of other countries is evidenced by the following statement taken from a review of the financial conditions of the world embodied in the last annual report of the great Deutsche Bank of Berlin—an institution with a paid-up capital and reserve fund of $75,000,000: "American railroads need higher freight rates. Their present rates are the lowest in the world—representing for instance but a fraction of the English railway rates—and this in the face of the fact that wages in the United States, on the average, are fully twice as high as in Europe. This latter question is one of paramount importance for the economic welfare of the whole country because of the earning power of the gigantic net of American roads is an essential condition for the possibility of their securing the urgently needed additional capital, whereon in turn depends the prosperity of the important industries and the opportunities for the employment of labor."

Railway regulation may be here to stay, as Mr. Francis says. But a very great American thinker recently said that the regulating boards will not stand the test of time, and that when the public fully appreciates the situation they would demand their abolition and insist that the roads be allowed to develop under natural laws. At any rate, while regulation must be endured, let it be of an intelligent kind. And let it be administered by experienced men, capable of understanding cases presented for their decision.

FRANCIS DE SALES RYAN.

The Straw Hat Fiction.

Editor of The Washington Herald: Before the curtain is rung down on a subject which has already occupied the center of the stage too long, I desire to take off my straw hat temporarily to the Editor of The Herald for a brief paragraph in yesterday's issue, the last sentence of which reads: "But at least the men of Washington have demonstrated the falsity of the theory that they are slaves of the calendar in the matter of dress." Amen, and amen! You were of course, discussing the theory that straw hats are supposed to be discarded on September 15, regardless. It is really puzzling to understand how so senseless a custom which evidently had its origin in a home for the feeble minded, should ever have any advocates or followers.

FRANK M. OTTINGER.

Taxes in the District.

Editor of The Washington Herald: We wish to thank you for your editorial, "For the Benefit of Beyond Iowa;" also, for the one that called it forth, or that drew the fire of the anonymous correspondent. That is the way we put it in our arguments for District suffrage, on the Avenue at "The Forum," three times a week. The District is convenient to be taxed and cussed, but not good enough to vote.

JAMES HUGH KELLEY.

The G. A. R. Escort.

Editor of The Washington Herald: The suggestion that the G. A. R. lead in their turn out next week is decidedly good. It will please the comrades very much to have the escort follow them. The veterans are old and can't stand as much as they could fifty years ago. It will suit the people to have the program amended accordingly.

J. S. T.

THE SPIRIT OF '15.

Some four and fifty years ago—
But life was precious then as now—
Their fathers saw these greybeards go,
Stout hearted lads, from forge and plough,
To prove in many a bloody fight
The simple truth that right is right.

Their comrades fell; they fought and died
Because it was their fathers' way
To wield the sword of truth and right
And not the tongue of yea and nay.
Their names adorn a deathless scroll
Who fought to save a nation's soul.

What trumpet called them forth to face
The wrath of the destroying guns?
What promise but the pride of race
That still informs these deathless ones?
What payment but the right to take
The sword in hand for honor's sake?

But now—Oh, well, some years have flown
Since history turned that crimson page.
It might be better to disown
Our spiritual heritage,
And lay, like prudent souls, away
A virtue that has ceased to pay.

It might be best to disavow
The faith they bought with blood and fire;
This military glory, now,
Is not what our young men desire.
They were not raised to lead a life
Of unremunerative strife!

And though the treaties that we signed
Be torn into a thousand shreds,
Better be cheerfully resigned
Than all be murdered in our beds,
Or face the horrible expense
Entailed by schemes of self-defense.

The deeds our fathers wrought of yore
Life on the page of history still,
But soldiers now are men of gore
Who should be sweating in a mill,
And honor does not represent
A good return in cent per cent!

Oh, greybeards, marching in the street,
The ancient glory in your eyes,
And roll of drums to guide your feet
Through the gold gates of Paradise,
A Bloodless era is proclaimed:
Look not at us lest we be shamed!

BRETHERTON.

Morning Smiles.

Casey—Thot was a mean trick the boss played on the bhoys.

Cassidy—Phot was thot?

Casey—Whin they struck he raised their pay before they even had tolme to go out and buy a drink.—Puck.

"Why do you beg, my good man?" "Can't get no work to suit me." "Is that possible? But why beg? Surely you can get yourself on an investigating committee, or a valuation board, or an advisory commission of some sort."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

SIX BEST SELLERS.

Shrapnel.
Rifles.
Loaded cartridges.
Uniforms.
Automobile trucks.
Cotton—From the Cleveland Leader