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MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1916.

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.

THE TIME AND PLACE. Some hope to ease despond "Tomorrow" or "Beyond," When with the aid of Cheer They'd find release from Fear Today, and Here.

Boy, page Villa. Tip for Maj. Pullman: The Philadelphia police squad has been abolished.

Well, we at least know that the Bremen has left Bremen and the Deutschland has left for Deutschland.

After his preliminary bout with the railroad men President Wilson should be in fine condition for the big match that ends in November.

Between the juggling of home politics in the Rigsdag and juggling by economy Democrats in Congress, it looks like we may lose those Danish West Indies after all.

According to the War Department view, Fighting Fred Funston is some soldier. According to the State Department view, the same gentleman, perhaps, is not much of a diplomat.

The New York Herald announces a reduction in the price of its week-day issue from 3 cents to 1 cent. Has the Herald inside information that the end of the news print paper shortage is in sight?

After a U-boat torpedoed a Dutch steamer, Germany formally apologized and offered to compensate the owners. The steamer carried a cargo for Belgians, but these starving sufferers got neither the food nor an apology.

Coincident with the "leak" of the news that Gen. Funston had advised the troops' withdrawal comes a dispatch saying that the General has ordered all militiamen to stop serving newspapers as correspondents. Now a real smart sleuth may discover where that "leak" occurred.

An American artist in England suspected of being a German spy was released when he proved that he could say "squirrel" like a true Englishman. The artist, safe in the U. S. A., declared that the man who invented the squirrel test is not a nut. Such a joke as this should convince anybody that the artist is a true Englishman.

David Lloyd George, in his latest war speech said: "I feel for the first time in two years that the nippers are gripping and before long we shall hear the crack. Then we will be able to extract the kernel." By "kernel" did the British war minister mean the man that England intends to put on the island Napoleon made famous?

Every day brings reports of increasing ruthlessness in Germany's new U-boat war. Secretary Lansing says he has received no official notification that Germany's promises to the United States have been broken, but news reports indicate that the new undersea war is being conducted according to the rules that caused President Wilson's ultimatum. That ultimatum stands and if more Americans are murdered Germany has a right to expect the severance of her relations with the United States.

Although the canvass is only one-third complete, more than 35,000 Pennsylvania Railroad employees already have signed a petition to Congress to enact a law that will make it impossible for a small minority of railroad employees, by concerted action, to jeopardize the positions and earnings of the great majority. The petition also urges legislation requiring arbitration of railway wage differences. This may be accepted as an indication that even such a national menace as the present railroad situation may have beneficial results. Whatever the outcome of the White House conferences, it seems plainly the duty of Congress to take steps to protect the nation against a repetition of the dangers of today if such protection may be given in law.

For their appropriation of tools and machinery, the French industrialists will unreservedly apply to American industry. The masters of American capital and industry know it, and they have already taken the preliminary measures of preparedness in view of such an unavoidable occurrence. They proposed lately to several industrialists of the invaded countries to undertake the reconstruction and equipment of their factories within a delay of six months after the cessation of hostilities. Such an insatiable activity might constitute a peril if it should develop to such an extent that the productive sources of our country would be monopolized by foreign capitalists. This current of foreign activity must, therefore, be restrained within the limits of a temporary effort necessitated by the rapid reorganization of our national industry.—La Reforme Economique, Paris.

Watchful Waiting Again?

Premature publication of the fact that Gen. Funston has advised the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico has set Washington agog with speculation as to what course President Wilson now will adopt. It seems to be generally believed that the President will adopt the Funston recommendation, and again follow the policy of watchful waiting, with the military forces strung out along the border to prevent more raids. This belief apparently is due largely to the fact that it is difficult to answer the question: "What else can the President do?"

When Funston was sent into Mexico he went with War Department orders to continue the pursuit of the bandits who made the Columbus raid until they were caught or until the Carranza forces were able to handle the situation. It was made clear to Funston that he could consider his task completed when Villa's bands were known to be broken up. The army orders did not instruct Funston to continue his work until Villa was killed or captured. Funston probably bases his recommendation to withdraw the troops on the belief that the Carranza forces are able to handle the situation.

It must be admitted that there is wisdom in Funston's advice. Every day that American troops remain on Mexican soil is a day filled with the menace of a clash such as that at Carrizal and the American people apparently are not willing to suffer another such massacre. Republicans perhaps will point out that the withdrawal of troops without Villa is a smirch on the national honor that may be likened to the withdrawal from Vera Cruz without the salute to the flag that Mr. Wilson demanded.

But even partisan critics of Mr. Wilson must admit that little is to be gained by keeping the army in Mexico, unless the administration plans ultimately to intervene. Mr. Wilson certainly has given no indication of an intention to intervene and if the present conditions continue there will be no need for intervention.

If the troops are withdrawn there will be much criticism of the administration for calling out the militia. But it must be remembered that when the President issued the call the forces he had sent after Villa were in grave danger. At that time it seemed as though the American troops might be cut from their base at any hour and Mr. Wilson's military advisers asked the mobilization of the State troops as a military necessity.

Prior to the call to the Guards, Senor Carranza's insolence and defiance had been verging on insults that seemed destined to cause a break in relations between the governments. Carranza not only refused to give any aid to the American troops, but hampered them in almost every way possible. Finally he issued his ultimatum that if the American troops advanced in any direction but northward his forces would attack them.

Under these conditions President Wilson faced an ignominious withdrawal or the alternative of the call for the militia. Since the mobilization of the State troops there has been a great change in Carranza's attitude and the only reason for this change seems to have been a realization on his part that at last the American people had reached the limit of tolerance. The mobilization of the militia may be checked down as one item in the expense bill for peace.

If Mr. Wilson now withdraws the troops he again faces the same situation that he faced before the Columbus raid, with one exception—the United States is now prepared to exact payment for murder of its citizens.

Those Inspired Revelations.

Less than three years ago, had some financial prophet ventured the prediction that by this time we should have exchanged our position as a debtor nation for that of creditor he would have been branded at once as a spurious seer. At that time, the foreign debt of this country was about \$5,000,000,000. That is a substantial obligation even for such a prosperous nation as this to carry. Due to the vast excess of exports which has been going on and is still continuing, our foreign debt must have been reduced more than one-half by this time, and the remainder of it is disappearing rapidly. So speedy and radical a change in the national financial aspect would seem incredible were it not for the ready facts to substantiate it.

Since the beginning of last year, the excess of our exports over our imports amounts to \$2,972,000,000. Up to the present time, foreign borrowing in the American market has been as follows: Great Britain, \$550,000,000; France, \$430,000,000; Russia, \$260,000,000; Italy, \$25,000,000; Germany, \$10,000,000, and to neutral European states, at least \$27,000,000. To this must be added \$120,000,000 borrowed by the Dominion of Canada since the war began.

In payment for the unprecedented trade balance in our favor, we have become the possessors of foreign evidences of debt to the amount of \$1,422,000,000. A net sum of over \$600,000,000 in gold has found its way into our Treasury. The unsettled balance of \$950,000,000 represents the amount of foreign-owned American securities disposed of in the open market during the past eighteen months.

When we have recovered a little from our amazement over becoming a creditor nation on such short notice and with so little effort on our part, we shall probably find plenty to do to maintain the position thrust upon us so unexpectedly.

For what reason are there some French journalists who take part against Mr. Wilson? He is now avenged for the attacks of the imprudent ones who thought that his sympathies for the allies were not openly enough manifested; the President of the great American republic has always spoken firmly to Germany, joining views of international policies which will be maintained as principles by the states of Central Europe in the course of their war policies and tactics. Thus he develops a conception of international law conformable to the times, and one which we would be glad to see successful after the events which are today making the times in which we are living truly dreadful. What else are we justified in requiring from his part? To avenge by himself fighting—right outraged by night—joining in the ranks beside us, and to lend us not only the assistance of his voice, but also that of his deeds? We trust that day will come when any people attacked with a protection due them against others who may speculate on the pretensions of might.—L'Humanite, Paris.

It is said that the English language has about 600,000 words, and we wager President Wilson has neglected few of them in his many notes.—Baltimore Star.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY, POET OF THE PEOPLE

James Whitcomb Riley, who recently died at his home in the city of Indianapolis, had long been, not only a citizen of great prominence and importance, but an object of intense pride and affection on the part of the people of the State. For many years he has been a public figure of the foremost prominence. His birthday was celebrated last October by public exercises and with a public dinner. The whole State participated in the celebration, and the poet received a recognition such as has been accorded to few American writers of verse. His death, which was unexpected, although it followed a long illness, has evoked an expression of regret and regard which in volume and evident sincerity shows how deeply Riley had touched the heart of his people.

Curiously enough, although he had been so much talked about in the columns of the newspapers, Riley escaped the biographer, says the Outlook. He was both shy and modest. His dislike for anything like publicity was instinctive. He would have been glad to have his name forgotten for all time, and there was considerable uncertainty in regard to some of the leading facts of his life. It is doubtful, for instance, whether any one knew exactly the year of his birth. He understood, apparently, the vast difference between newspaper publicity and fame; and while he could not have been indifferent to the latter, he was eminently successful in evading the former. If he had been asked the name of his school and college, he would undoubtedly have answered, "Indiana," for he had no early opportunities, as opportunities are commonly reckoned. He was born in Greenfield, Ind. When his biography was written, he was greatly disturbed and did his utmost to suppress it. After much urging, he revised the proofs which were placed in his hands, but took out every specific statement and every date. In this fashion he gave it to the public; but after its publication he bought up the rights in the book and had it destroyed.

In recent years, when he has been pressed to write his autobiography, his reply has been: "No, no; it seems too connected in this respect, he stands in striking contrast to some of the lesser writers, both men and women, whose biographies, names, faces, habits of life, life records for all the world to read on the pages of the Sunday newspapers. It is only just to remember, however, that in many cases the subjects of these sketches, impressions, and more or less apocryphal accounts are victims of journalistic enterprise rather than voluntary narrators of their own great deeds.

Riley had little schooling, and set out early in life to earn his own living. Various stories of his early occupations have obtained credence. He is said to have peddled patent medicines, to have amused himself and interested others as a versifier at county fairs, to have been a sign and house painter, and he has even been charged with being the discoverer of the idea of painting signs on fences and barns. One day he dropped into the office of a weekly newspaper, and falling to secure a regular position, turned his attention to contributing verses to the local journals. One of his early poems was widely accepted as an unpublished work of Poe. Afterwards Riley himself declared that the poem was the work of "a sign-painter named Riley." To the habit of writing occasional poems he added the occupation of a traveling artist, for which he had very decided talents. His readings, widely, of a very popular, were notable for his unusual gift of dramatic characterization, for his effective facial expression, and for the pathos and sympathy which he could put into his voice. Sir Henry Irving is reported to have said that the American stage lost a great actor when Riley refused to make acting his life-work. Those who were fortunate enough to attend a dinner given to Mr. Aldrich in a New York club at which Riley, Eugene Field, and Bill Nye recited characteristic poems gained a very good idea of respective varieties of American humor.

In character and habit of life James Whitcomb Riley was the simplest of human beings. He never thought of himself, apparently, as a poet; he simply fell into the habit of writing verses because it was natural for him to use that form of expression. He was not in any sense the poet of democracy. He had no theories about his art; no consciousness, apparently, of any ambitious practice in any particular way or for any special purpose. He never proclaimed himself the poet of the "democratic vista," as did Whitman, who regarded himself as the prophet of democracy, and who wrote half a dozen striking and really wonderful poems, but whose books are never seen in the hands of working people, and whose poems are rarely, if ever, recited by school children.

Riley was in no sense a genuine poet of the people. He not only wrote about them, but he wrote to them and for them; and no American poet, with the exception of Longfellow, has come so near the hearts of the people or has been so much loved and honored by children. He was a simple singer of familiar things; but familiar things seen with the poet's vision and described with the poet's feeling cease to be common things; and Riley was able to make things of the farm and of the village significant of human destiny. He never bothered himself with the philosophy of life; he never traveled for local color; he was apparently entirely uninterested in affairs of art; but he sang of childhood, of the flowers in the garden, of the secrets of the woods, all with that unconscious simplicity which is the ultimate aim of art.

It is idle to attempt to assign him to any particular place in the history of American poetry, or to define the position of his genius in the poetry of the people. He not only wrote about them, but he wrote to them and for them; and no American poet, with the exception of Longfellow, has come so near the hearts of the people or has been so much loved and honored by children. He was a simple singer of familiar things; but familiar things seen with the poet's vision and described with the poet's feeling cease to be common things; and Riley was able to make things of the farm and of the village significant of human destiny. He never bothered himself with the philosophy of life; he never traveled for local color; he was apparently entirely uninterested in affairs of art; but he sang of childhood, of the flowers in the garden, of the secrets of the woods, all with that unconscious simplicity which is the ultimate aim of art.

There is a close likeness between what the railroads have been stopped in doing and what the trainmen are trying to do. They are trying to "cut a melon." To allow them to have their wages raised at the pinnacle of prosperity is the same thing as allowing them to capitalize their wages or to water their work. That has been stopped on the railroads and should not be allowed for their wage-earners.—New York Times.

The Hohenzollern family may not be cast out as a result of a war. The people of Germany must be reckoned with, and they ought to be allowed the pleasure of removing their own tyrants. But the history of the House of Hohenzollern which William's ill-starred effort is making will remove from the name all glamour of greatness as well as constitute a warning to any monarch in Europe who, during the next hundred years, may feel that he has it in him to be an Alexander.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Republican rejoicing over Mr. Hughes' surprising discovery that a Democratic administration has been faithful to the Jacksonian principle—to the victors belong the spoils.

Democratic efforts to make it appear that Mr. William Bryan is late of the Census Bureau but now of the Federal Trade Commission, is something else than a "deserving Democrat." Mr. Penrose's righteous indignation over the fact that men who contributed to the Wilson campaign fund in 1912 profited when the time came to "shake the plum tree." Mr. Bryan's emergence from the solitude of Lincoln to add to the embarrassments of his party by attempting a defense of his career as Secretary of State.—New York Herald.

AFTER DINNER POLITICS

By DR. E. J. EDWARDS, Author of "New News of Yesterday," Etc.

Calhoun's Last Speech in the Senate.

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Hannibal Hamlin, in 1852, while on a journey from Bangor, Me., to New York, told me many things of interest associated with his public career before he became Vice President of the United States in the first administration of President Lincoln. Governor Hamlin appeared to have a vivid recollection of the highly dramatic and sensational—in the best meaning of the term—events of the spring of 1850, when the compromise resolution framed by Henry Clay with intent to put an end to slavery agitation was before the Senate. Governor Hamlin was a member of that Senate and he spoke against the Clay compromise resolution.

It was, however, the pathetic and practically farewell address to the Senate which were made at that time by John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster and Clay which Governor Hamlin most vividly recalled. Remembering also that Clay had forgotten his disappointment at his failure to receive the Whig nomination for President in 1848 and seemed to be in good spirits when he introduced the compromise resolution.

Governor Hamlin remembers the appearance of John C. Calhoun upon that occasion. Calhoun had already been attacked by organic disease, which a few weeks later proved fatal. He was, however, of indomitable will, and as he believed it to be important—especially to the section of the Union of which he was at the time a conspicuous representative—when the speech was finished he retired to the classroom. A few weeks after that his colleague announced that the great Senator had passed away.

The Herald's Army and Navy Department

Latest and Most Complete News Service and Personnel Published in Washington.

A new system of determining the efficiency of naval officers, under which the standing of each vessel in battle efficiency, target practice, engineering, and other branches of ship work will become part of her commander's record, is being worked out by the Navy Department.

Whether the system of detailing line officers for engineering duty is to be adversely affected by the plan of selection now being incorporated in the new naval personnel regulation is a question over which there is much speculation in naval circles here.

Protection was sought in behalf of those officers who were members of the former Engineer Corps and of those who are hereafter to be assigned to engineering duty only by requiring that the recommendation of the selection board shall pass upon the comparative fitness of those officers for the duties prescribed for them by law and the further provision that such officers, upon promotion, shall be carried as additional numbers in grade.

The effect of this new arrangement will be to eliminate by 1925 nearly all of the officers who are now carried on the list for engineering duty, most of whom will have come within the scope of the age-in-grade retirement law.

The legislation in this respect it is claimed, is not satisfactory by any means to the officers most vitally interested, but it was the best that could be done under the circumstances, these same officers admit. At any rate, it serves the purpose of showing the intent of Congress to recognize the claim of the engineers as eligible for promotion by selection without prejudice to the interest of those of others.

To Instill Love for Flag. An idea to instill love for the "Star Spangled Banner" into the hearts and minds of the American children has been advanced by Lieut. William H. Santelmann, director of the Marine Band. He suggests that the public school children be taught the significance of the great song.

Chicago has 6,985 lawyers, a gain of 228 in a year.

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Capt. Clarence H. Knight, Corps of Engineers, has been honorably discharged from the army, having failed on re-examination for promotion after suspension from promotion for a year. His discharge marks the final chapter of a case that has been before the War Department for many months.

On May 31 an order directing the discharge on June 2 was issued. By an order of June 6 the discharge was made to make the order effective June 15, and by orders of June 10 the discharge orders were suspended and Capt. Knight was directed to report for examination by a retiring board at Washington.

It is understood that the retiring board did not recommend the transfer of the officer to the retired list, and the order

OPEHELLA'S SLATE.

Advertisement for The Educational Bureau featuring a cartoon of a man with a sign that says 'PLAN THE SEEDS OF KINDNESS IN YOUR RINKLES & YOUR FACE WILL BLOOM WITH JOY'. Below the cartoon is a list of subjects for boys and girls, including Preparatory, Military, Technical, Commercial, Musical, Religious, Law, Medical, and Veterinary. It also includes a section for 'Special classification' and a form for 'NAME' and 'ADDRESS'.

Political Notes

New York, Aug. 20.—Col. Austin Colgate has sent to Gov. James F. Fielder and Thomas F. Martin, secretary of State of New Jersey, his resignation as State senator of Essex county, in order to become a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor at the primaries in September. His term would have expired in 1917, and his successor will be elected in November.

New York, Aug. 20.—Preparations are being made by the National Democratic Club for an active part in the campaign to elect Wilson and Marshall. President John M. Riehe has appointed a campaign committee to carry on the work. The chairman is Charles B. Alexander, of the State board of regents. "Peace and Prosperity" is to be the slogan of the committee.

The executive members include Samuel McClellan, Valentine F. Snyder, George W. Lott, John Whalen, Albert E. Unger, Abram L. Eskus, MacGrain-Cox, John F. Galvin, Leslie J. Tompkins, Lethrop Brown, Francis P. Garvan, Herbert H. Lehman, Frederick H. Allen, Thomas E. Rush, Robert L. Lowry, Stuart G. Gibbons, Richard T. Wilson, Charles E. Gehring, Charles C. Hughes, Gordon Auchincloss, Caleb N. Redfern, Walter Chandler, Jr., Vito Contessa, Edmund J. Curry, Henry De W. Hamilton, John R. Dunlap, Edward Strauss, Louis E. La Tour and Nathan A. Maber, Jr.

Pottsville, Pa., Aug. 20.—Notwithstanding his serious illness former Representative Robert E. Lee will not withdraw from the Democratic ticket, declare his most intimate friends. He is at Atlantic City recuperating from the serious operation he underwent in June.

Burlington, N. J., Aug. 20.—Unheralded by press notices and unrecognized by the election laws, a new manager took charge of the Democratic gubernatorial campaign at the annual outing of the Burlington (N. J.) Democratic Club at Rancocas Park. Mrs. H. Otto Wittmann made her initial appearance here in the campaign that is to land her husband in the governor's chair at Trenton.

Bangor, Me., Aug. 20.—With the Maine State election three weeks away, Democrats say indications point steadily to the election of the Democratic governor, Oakley C. Curtis, with at least an even break in the legislature and more than one-half the sixteen county tickets. McLaughlin, Democrat, is expected to be elected to Congress in the Second district, and some hope is entertained of Democratic success in the First district, although that is something of a rainbow chase. In the Third district there seems to be no doubt of the re-election of John A. Peters, the Republican candidate. In the Fourth district, where Bangor is situated, there is an interesting situation, daily growing more promising for Leonard Pierce, of Houlton, Democrat. The question upon which everything turns is, How will the Progressive divide?

The Democratic danger point is Penobscot County, where for some time a rather serious revolt has been in progress, but so far to dissatisfaction over appointments.

Allentown, Pa., Aug. 20.—Never in all its proud history of 104 years did the Lehigh Democracy step more solidly to the front than when, at the annual Lehigh Democracy county meeting, at Schnecksville, ringing resolutions for President Wilson and all he stands for were adopted.

The Wilson administration had most efficient spokesmen in Congressman Arthur G. Dewitt, of the Berks-Lehigh district; Congressman Harry J. Steele, of Easton; and Congressman James Thomas Hedrick, of Allentown, who is on his way as an orator of the national committee to campaign in Maine.

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