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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1917.

Mr. Creel and The Herald.

George Creel, chairman of the Committee on Public Information, issued the following statement yesterday:

The Washington Herald's charge that I have attempted to control its opinion is without base in truth. I did not question any editorial or quarrel with one. No reprimand was hinted or even dreamed of. While in the Navy Department yesterday, I happened to meet Admiral Earle. We spoke of the Mongolia's defective shells, and he cited The Herald editorial as an example of incomplete knowledge in connection with a highly technical subject. I urged upon him, as I have urged upon all others, the importance of personal contact with the press as an aid to the full understanding that is now a national necessity. Admiral Earle assented instantly. He stated that he would be only too glad to have the direct relation established. I called up The Herald office, and told them of Admiral Earle's willingness to be seen and interviewed whenever any ordnance matter arose. They expressed the utmost appreciation, and thanked me for my efforts in the matter. These are the facts. From the outset the policy of this committee has been one of co-operation, not supervision. I have assumed the patriotism of the press and its eagerness for truth and service, and my one effort has been to open up the business of government to public inspection.

Whatever the exact phraseology of the conversation between Mr. Creel and The Herald—a question which can be decided only by two men—we hardly think that Mr. Creel will deny, when he gives full reflection to the matter, that the primary and chief purpose of that conversation was to take exception to the editorial in question.

The Herald did not make the charge that Mr. Creel was attempting to control its policy. It merely asked whether he was trying to do so. We think he was careless in his reading of the editorial, to put it mildly.

Mr. Creel himself cites the editorial "as an example of incomplete knowledge in connection with a highly technical subject." Therefore it was within his function, as chairman of the Committee on Public Information, to point the road to complete knowledge. Will Mr. Creel in the future continue to call up editors who write editorials based on "incomplete knowledge"? Are such editorials even inferentially objectionable to him or to the administration?

Mr. Creel, we feel constrained to say, is putting the most generous and general construction on his conversation with The Herald. This newspaper regarded it differently, and still does, because Mr. Creel is the governmental censor-to-be if a censorship law is passed, and because we feel that if free and untrammelled discussion of such a tragedy as that of the Mongolia can be indulged in only by those having a technical knowledge of such a complex subject as ordnance, then the newspapers indeed are in danger.

Complete knowledge of the results of the Mongolia tragedy is in the hands of the public. Complete knowledge of the causes of it are in the hands of no one, not even ordnance experts. Newspapers in the long run are safe only when they judge by results, and when they criticize on the basis of results.

If Mr. Creel says he has no intention of attempting to control the editorial opinion of The Herald, we accept that statement without reserve. Perhaps it was merely impulsive, mistaken zeal on his part, but in these days of censorship and near-censorship it assuredly was open to misconception.

The Herald is willing to correct any errors or misstatements of fact at any time, and yesterday morning printed an interview with Admiral Earle showing how he regarded the matter. But right or wrong, sound or unsound, it must insist upon expressing editorial opinion without interference.

Tearing Off the Mask.
 There will be no passports issued by the American government to Socialists desiring to attend the Stockholm conference.

By this announcement the United States has branded the whole powwow as a pure piece of German propaganda for a separate peace with Russia. It is eloquent in its sharpness and decisiveness.

There has been no doubt of the true character of the Stockholm conference from the day it was first proposed. Germany has been straining every nerve to palsy the hand of the new Russian administration in its conduct of the war; to worry it into a break with the entente, if possible. The Socialists hold the whiphand in Russia; in Germany, despite such independent spirits as Harden and Lebedow, they are more or less of a cat's-paw in the hands of the autocracy, or at least, some elements in the party are.

Morris Hillquit, Fred Berger, and other Socialists in the United States who desired to go to Stockholm will have to remain at home. Whether these men consciously planned to dance to the German fiddle or not, it is clear that that was the role they were assigned to play. The American government prevents them from doing so.

Germany tacitly admits that her scheming for a separate peace with Russia has failed. The United States is putting the finishing touches to the failure.

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HOLLAND LETTER

The Biggest Daily Financial News Feature of the Country's Best Newspapers.

While the submarine activities will be continued throughout the summer, and, possibly, the early fall, resulting in considerable loss to the ships and cargoes of the allies, nevertheless the peril of the seas caused by the submarines will in all probability be greatly diminished within a few months. Great Britain is persuaded that, with the co-operation of the United States, the submarine will be matched and overmatched and, possibly, with a new and now unsuspected element of fightfulness not for the allies, but for those who operate the submarines.

There was undoubted justification for the very careful statement which was made a few days ago by William L. Saunders, in which he intimated that an apparatus had been perfected whereby the submarine could be mastered. While undoubtedly it is the desire of the government that the details respecting this apparatus should not, at present, become known, nevertheless there is no doubt but that in a short time the chief features of it will inevitably be revealed, not only to the allies, but to Germany. It will make little difference in the result of this amazing kind of warfare against the submarines whether the apparatus is recognized by Germans or not after it has been thoroughly utilized by the United States government.

The surmise at first was that if there was any foundation for Mr. Saunders' statement, electricity was the agent utilized in some new manner for perfecting his apparatus. But it is not to be electricity, instead of a new kind of electricity, for magnetism instead is to be utilized. The apparatus is now being built in large numbers. The intention of the government is speedily to stretch the sea in zones where the submarines are operating with many thousands of these little but deadly things. The apparatus is so built that it will almost float upon the surface of the ocean. Yet it is so small that it is not likely to be detected. It requires no guidance. It operates automatically. When a submarine approaches within its influence, then the apparatus will at once cling to the hull of the submarine with something like the tenacity of the tentacles of the devil fish. Those who are operating submarines are not likely to know that one of these dangerous insects of the sea is attached to its hull. The submarine is safe as long as it remains upon the surface. For the apparatus is so adjusted that not until a certain depth is reached—the average depth to which a submarine sinks—will the stupendous force contained within it be discharged, thereby tearing the bottom of the submarine out. That will be the end of the submarine.

Very Low Cost.
 The apparatus can be made at as low a cost as ten dollars for each one. Exhaustive tests of it appear to have persuaded those in authority that its capability of doing exactly what its inventor—who is an army officer—claims for it. Therefore, it is the understanding here that already this apparatus in considerable numbers is in the process of manufacture and will, when made, be taken out upon the ocean and then set free to float here and there, until at last, through its magnetic power, it attaches itself to a submarine.

It is a belief that the apparatus will thoroughly supplement the work of the destroyers and serve as an efficient ally for the American flotilla which is now operating in the submarine zone and for the additional vessels of this type which are to be sent to this zone. One peculiarity of the apparatus is that it will not endanger any wooden ship or any steel or iron ship unless the draught be substantially the same as the depth to which the submarine sinks when it is submerged.

By early fall the allies should receive, "submarines or no submarines," as President Wilson expressed it, needed supplies exported from the United States in abundant amounts. For although the submarine may continue its work and send to the bottom now and then a vessel laden with supplies, nevertheless the proportion of vessels sunk to those which safely reach port will in all probability grow less and less. So far as those in authority can see, German inventors will not be able to perfect any device which will negate the influence of this extraordinary apparatus.

A Trifle of the Nation's Wealth.
 Although two billion dollars represents a figure which the human mind is unable concretely to grasp, nevertheless the sum is in reality a trifle in comparison with the wealth of the United States. It is an insignificant sum when set against the figures which tell of the clearings of the banks of the United States for the year which ended December 31, 1916. The bank clearings of the country in that time aggregated almost exactly \$261,000,000,000. Those figures reflect a great part of the business activities of the United States. Were the census bureau not occupied in estimating the national wealth of the United States it would, according to the best judgment, be able to report that our aggregate wealth is not far from \$200,000,000,000. In other words, it is approximately equal to the bank clearings of the year reported last fall for a year. The people can take out of the money received for agricultural products the \$2,000,000,000 of the liberty loan and still have left from five to seven billion dollars. It is estimated that the total income of the people of the United States is approximately \$27,000,000,000. And we have been able to buy back from Europe since the beginning of the war American securities of a face value only a little under the liberty loan figures. Comparisons of the kind justify the confidence of the men of finance and of the Secretary of the Treasury that the liberty loan will be fully subscribed and paid for without impairing American business or creating ill-feelings.

There has been no doubt of the true character of the Stockholm conference from the day it was first proposed. Germany has been straining every nerve to palsy the hand of the new Russian administration in its conduct of the war; to worry it into a break with the entente, if possible. The Socialists hold the whiphand in Russia; in Germany, despite such independent spirits as Harden and Lebedow, they are more or less of a cat's-paw in the hands of the autocracy, or at least, some elements in the party are.

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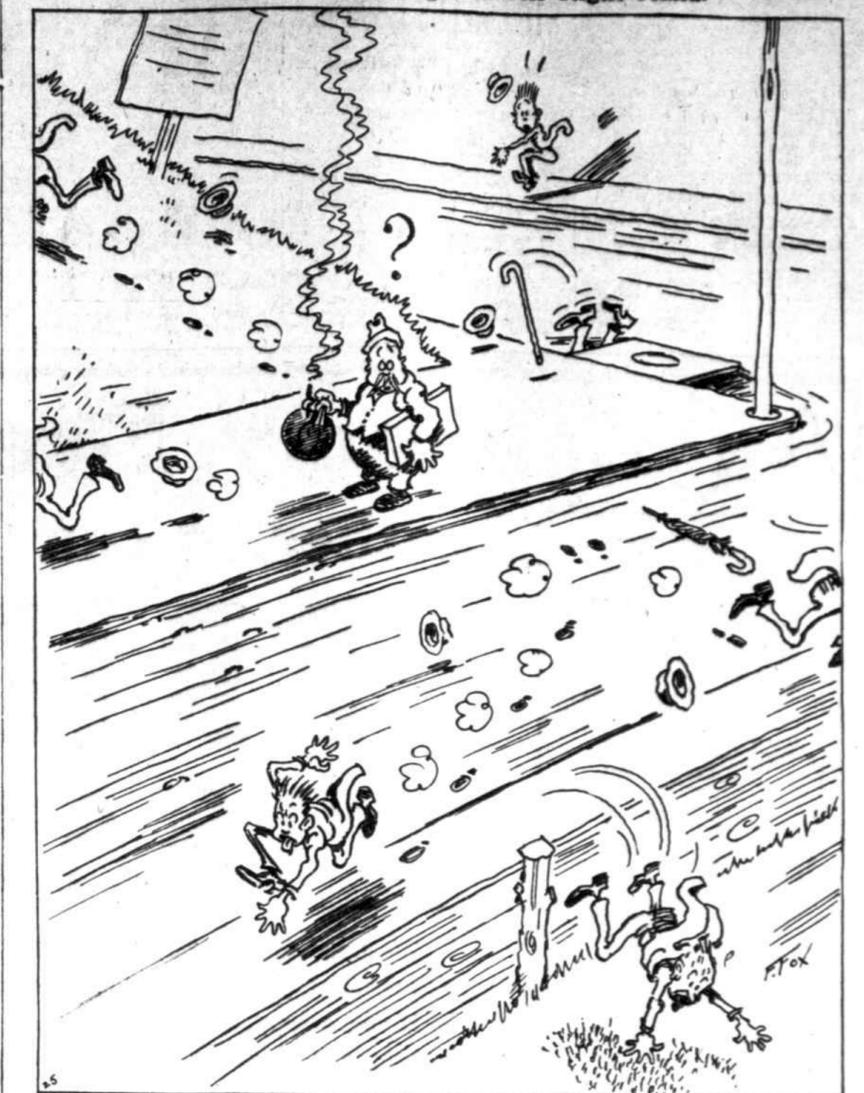
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The German Restaurant Keeper Suddenly Turns the Corner Carrying a Bowling Ball and a Cigar in His Right Hand.



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Army and Navy News

Best Service Column in City.

How would you like to be a physician or surgeon and have your list of clients increased by nearly 100,000 in a single month? Such is the experience of Dr. William C. Braisted, the present surgeon general of the United States navy, and the man who, above all others, is charged with the preservation of the health of the American sailor and marine during the present war.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, of which he is the official head, superintends everything relating to medicines, medical stores, surgical instruments and hospital supplies required for the sick and wounded for the navy and Marine Corps. Except as otherwise provided for, the duties of the bureau also include the upkeep and operation of the medical supply depots, the medical laboratories, the naval hospitals, dispensaries, technical schools for the medical and hospital corps and the administration of the nurse corps, dental corps and medical reserve corps.

Horn in Toledo.
 Dr. Braisted was born in Toledo, Ohio, 32 years ago, but he does not look more than 40. One of his suspects he is only 35 and that his hair has turned prematurely gray. He got his foot fairly on the ladder under Serg. Gen. Rixey, of the Public Health Service. Rixey was a progressive and an enthusiast. In those days the naval hospitals were about as bad as they could be. Braisted shared with Rixey the credit due for their improvement. They are now mighty good hospitals indeed.

At the battle of Puerto Cabello Braisted's services in caring for the Venezuelan wounded earned him the Order of Bolivar. A decoration also was bestowed upon him by the Emperor of Japan. And he has been honored with the presidency of the Association of Military Surgeons, an honor granted only to eminent men.

Failure in any one of a dozen duties not specifically outlined in the surgeon's orders might bring down upon the men in the naval service one of the diseases that especially flourish in time of war. Because of these things Dr. Braisted and his men are working nights and Sundays now, but his office door stands wide open. There is a continual stream of official callers passing through it. Dr. Braisted stands at his desk half the time. That makes for speed in action.

If privacy seems necessary in a consultation Dr. Braisted and the consultant go into one of the corners of the office and talk it out. Persons who specialize in departmental gossip, the latest funny story and bad news are welcomed.

Keeps Forefinger in File.
 The Surgeon General has a habit of keeping a forefinger in a file of papers and looking through one in kindly fashion over his eyeglasses. His voice

OPHELIA'S SLATE.
 The cartoon shows a woman holding a slate with the text: "THE MORE YOU USE THE THINKER THE EASIER IT WILL RUN."

Supports The Herald

On Censorship Stand

Editor The Washington Herald: Your editorial on the front page of The Washington Herald dated Thursday, May 24, 1917, is more than a revelation to me. I am sure that that editorial breathes the spirit of a freedom in the entire nation, who are powerless to make themselves heard, concerning the gripping autocratic powers granted our President.

It is to thank God to see that there are some men left in our country brave enough to think for themselves and to not be swayed from what is right by the great war delirium which is at present sweeping our "land of the free, and home of the brave." Right will prevail, and I am proud to say The Washington Herald is doing its share to see that democracy first begins on its own maternal shores.

Gentlemen of the editorial staff of The Washington Herald, it is my honor if not my privilege to congratulate you. A BROTHER CITIZEN WITH YOU.

Port Elizabeth, the largest seaport on east side of Cape Colony, is called the Liverpool of the Cape.

Today's Events

Meeting of the Alumni of the University of Michigan at the Wilson Normal School, Eleventh and Harvard streets tonight.

Presentation of three playlets by the Studio Hall Players at 1219 Connecticut avenue at 8:30 p. m.

Meeting of the Red Cross Circle of the Washington College of Law in the college hall at 7:30 p. m.

Reception by Miss Lillian Evans in Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University at 8:30 p. m.

Mass meeting under auspices of the local society of the Phi Kappa Psi at 8 p. m. for the discussion of the Conservation law.

Reception for Mrs. Stanley McCormick by the Congressional Club at 8 p. m.

Exhibition of work of the drawing, physical training, and music departments at Eastern High School from 7 to 9:20 p. m.

Special meeting of the Seaman's Club this evening in the oak room of the Raleigh Hotel.

Mass meeting of the Park View Orchestra at the Park View School at 8 p. m.

Examinations for the award of scholarships start today at George Washington University.

"Patriotic night" at the American Dramatic Guild, Central Coliseum, Ninth street and Pennell; Manila avenue northwest.

AMUSEMENTS.
 Reliance—"Dollars and Sense," 8:30 p. m.
 New National-Abram Ojeda Constant, in "Robin Hood," 8:30 p. m.
 Follies-Mabel Garrison and Perry Grainger in "The Silent Witness," 7:15 and 9:15 p. m.
 R. P. Keith-Vanderbilt, 7:15 and 9:15 p. m.
 Cosmos-Vanderbilt, 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.
 Lewis' Columbia-Photoplays, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.
 Strand-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
 Garden-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

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